

 Shojo Beat Manga

# love★com™



Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

7





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## The Story So Far...

Riso and Ôtani are their class's lapsed comedy duo...except that now, Risa's fallen in love with Ôtani! She finally works up the courage to tell him how she feels, only to be totally rejected. Hoping to change his mind, she makes him a chocolate cake for Valentine's Day...only to be rejected again. But then, for White Day, Ôtani gives her a ticket to an Umibôzu show, and they'll be going together. Yay! Except, the day before the show, he gets sick and misses school. And when Risa goes to his house to see how he's doing, he kisses her!! The only problem is, the next day he doesn't remember a thing about it. And when he does, he claims he was trying to pick a rice grain out of her hair! Risa decides she's through with him. She starts a fan club for dreamy new teacher Mr. Maitake (aka Mighty) and throws herself into serious idol worship...and Ôtani gets awfully grumpy. Could he be jealous?

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* vols. 1-6, available at bookstores everywhere!!





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## CHAPTER 25



I'M  
THE ONE  
SHE'S  
IN LOVE  
WITH,  
NOT YOU!!



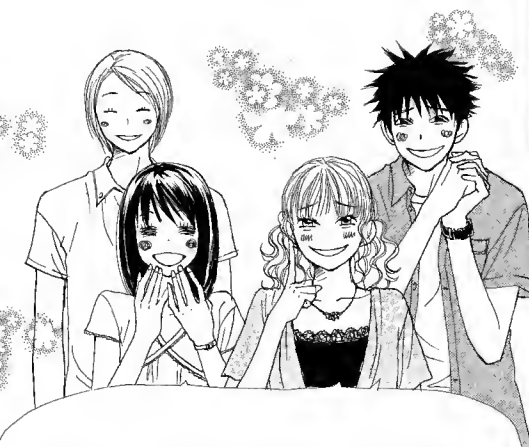
SHE DOES  
NOT HAVE  
THE HOTS  
FOR YOU,  
GOT THAT?!

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT ALL  
ABOUT?

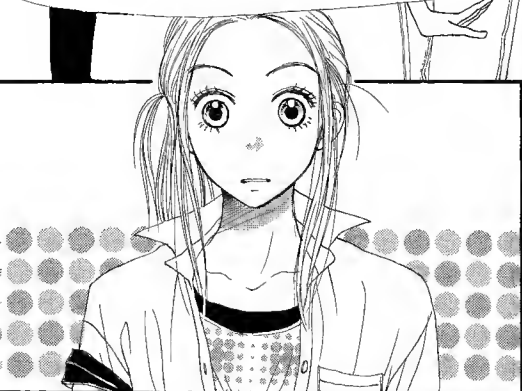
WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?







GOOD MOOOORNING, RIIISAAA!



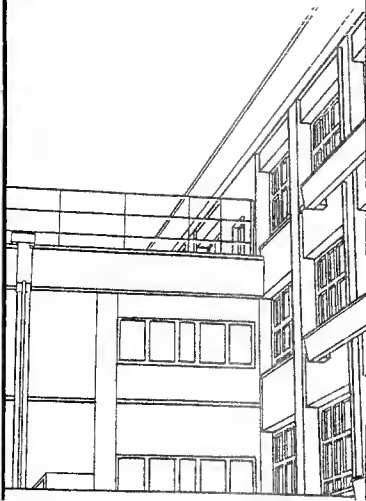
BELIEVE ME,  
IT WAS A  
**BIGGER**  
SURPRISE  
TO ME. I  
JUST DON'T  
**GET IT.**

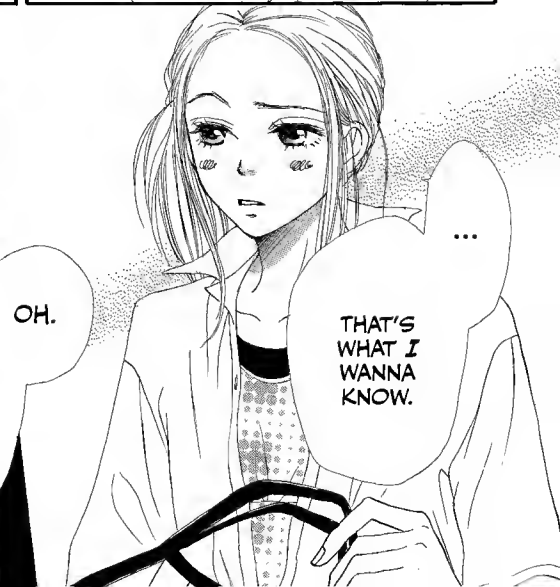
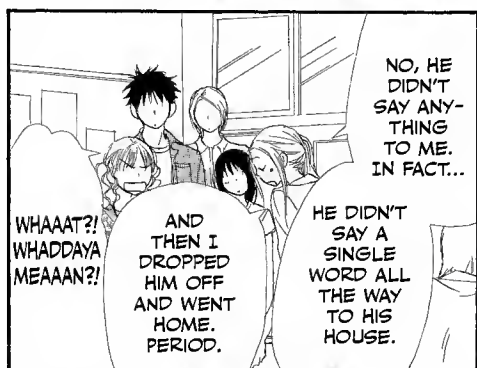
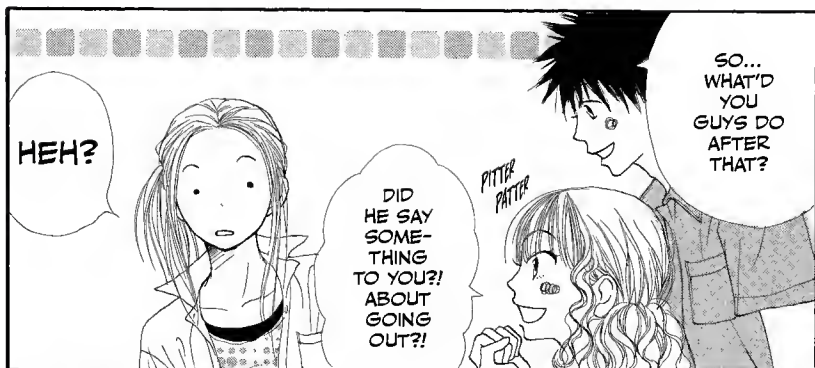


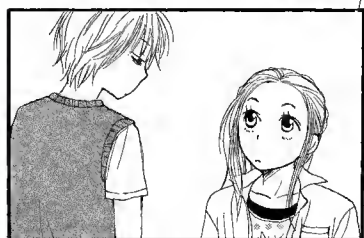
SO HEY,  
GIRL!  
WHAT WAS  
**THAT ALL**  
ABOUT  
YESTER-  
DAY?!

THAT  
WAS  
KIND  
OF A  
SUR-  
PRISE!

I SWEAR,  
I JUST  
DON'T GET  
WHERE  
ÔTANI'S AT,  
AT ALL.







...WHAT  
IS  
WITH  
HIM?

...SORRY.

Ignore  
that.

I take  
it back.  
It's me.  
It's not  
you, it's  
me.

BZZZZ

BZZZZ

RIIISAAA.  
LIKE, DUH.  
ÔTANI, WHO  
ELSE?

YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
CHASING  
MIGHTY  
AROUND,  
SO HE'S  
JEALOUS.  
IT'S  
TOTALLY  
OBVIOUS.

A GUY  
IN LOVE?  
WHORE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

WELL,  
YOU  
KNOW,  
BASI-  
CALLY...

...A GUY  
IN LOVE  
GETS  
AS HIGH-  
STRUNG  
AS ANY GIRL  
IN LOVE,  
IS WHAT  
IT BOILS  
DOWN TO.



Hello! Nakahara here.

We're up to Volume 7.

Nooh! drumdrumdrum

The drama CD went

on sale the other day.

Nooh! drumdrumdrum

All of you who came to my autograph session marking the occasion, thank you so much!

For the Osaka session, Risa Hayamizu, who plays Risa on the CD, was there too. She is super-friendly and nice and totally beautiful. swoon...

And has such a great voice. swoon...

I couldn't be there for the Tokyo session, but Hayamizu-san and Ryutaro Okiayu, who plays Haruka on the CD, were there to talk about all kinds of stuff. Wish I could've gone...



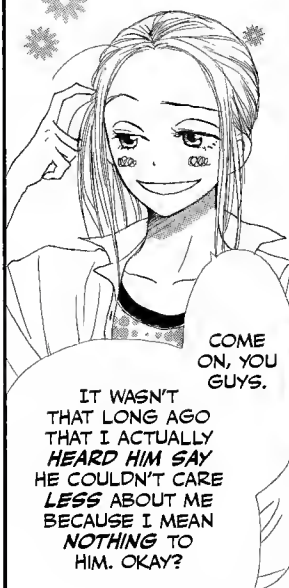
Okiayu-san can do so many voices. He is brilliant. Voice actors are amazing.

Hope you'll all listen to the CD, now that it's out!

Yup, this section here was just a big ad.

Step right up, ladies and gentlemen!!

Osaka merchant Aya



COME ON, YOU GUYS.

IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT I ACTUALLY HEARD HIM SAY HE COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ME BECAUSE I MEAN NOTHING TO HIM. OKAY?



I THINK HE IS TOO.

OTANI? JEALOUS? I MEAN, AS IF..

I DUNNO ABOUT THAT.



OH, UH...

WELL, HE ONLY SAID THAT 'CUZ MIGHTY WOUND HIM UP, RISA, I'M SURE OF IT.

W H A A A T ?

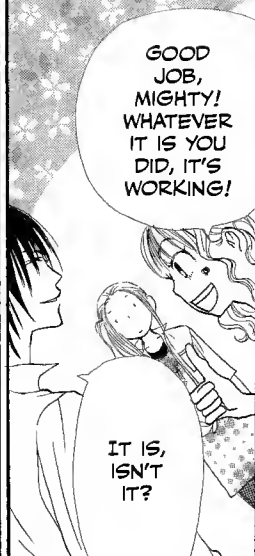
HAS MY MAGIC BEEN WORKING, RISA?

HOW DID IT GO YESTER-DAY, AFTER THAT?



LET'S  
HOPE HE  
STARTS  
ACTING  
STRANGER  
AND  
STRANGER!

...OTANI'S  
ACTING  
REALLY  
STRANGE.



GOOD  
JOB,  
MIGHTY!  
WHATEVER  
IT IS YOU  
DID, IT'S  
WORKING!

IT IS,  
ISN'T  
IT?



OH,  
UH...  
WELL...

*She's giving  
me a ride  
home!!*

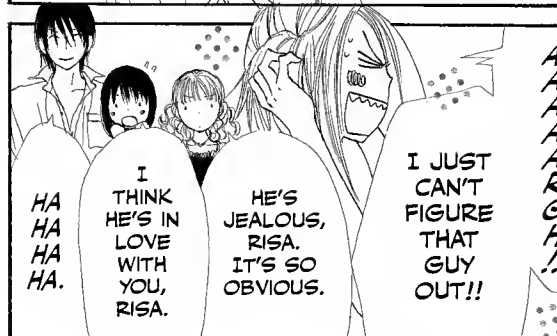
*Right  
now!!  
And  
every  
day!!*

YOU  
NEED TO  
ACCOMPANY  
YOUR MOODY  
PRINCE HOME  
EVERY DAY,  
I BELIEVE.  
AS PRIVATE  
BICYCLE  
CHAUFFEUR?



HUH?

I GUESS  
YOU'LL BE  
TAKING A  
BREAK  
FROM THE  
MIGHTY  
GIRLS FOR  
A WHILE.  
TOO BAD  
FOR ME.



HA  
HA  
HA  
HA.

I  
THINK  
HE'S IN  
LOVE  
WITH  
YOU,  
RISA.

HE'S  
JEALOUS,  
RISA.  
IT'S SO  
OBVIOUS.

I JUST  
CAN'T  
FIGURE  
THAT  
GUY  
OUT!!

AAAAARGH!!



ÔTANI,  
JEALOUS?  
OVER  
ME...?

...



ÔTANI,  
IN LOVE  
WITH  
ME...?

D  
A  
N  
E



I'VE GOTTEN  
MY HOPES  
UP WAY TOO  
MANY TIMES,  
ONLY TO  
HAVE THEM  
DASHED TO  
THE GROUND.  
EVERY  
SINGLE TIME.

*There was  
this nice  
grain in  
your hair.*



I  
REALLY  
DON'T  
KNOW.

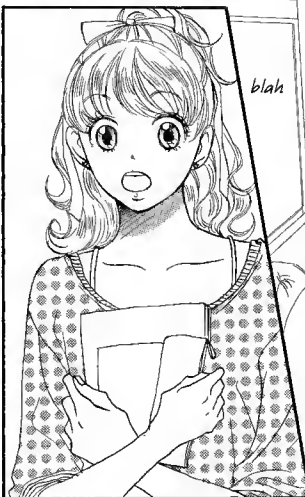


FIRST COACH,  
NOW YOU...  
WHAT'S WITH  
ALL THESE  
INJURIES THIS  
SEASON?



I CAN'T  
LET  
MYSELF  
BELIEVE  
IT THAT  
EASILY.

**INJURIES?!**  
**OMIGOSH!**  
**ARE YOU**  
**HURT, OTANI**  
**SENPAI?!**



*blah*

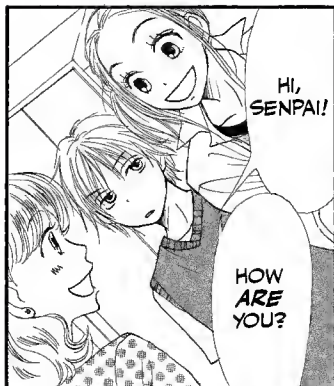
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GONNA  
DO  
ABOUT  
PRACTICE?

UH...  
GUESS  
I'LL JUST  
SIT AND  
WATCH.

*blah*

*blah*





HI,  
SENPAI!

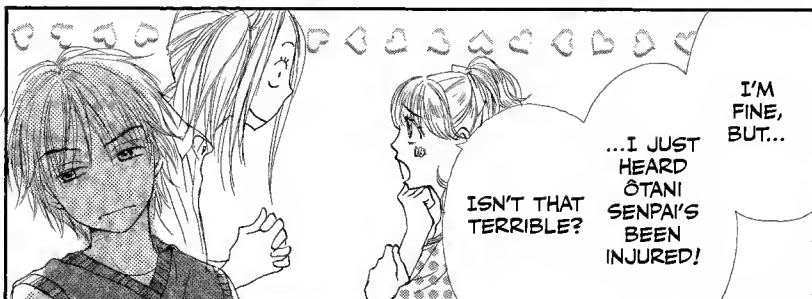
HOW  
ARE  
YOU?



UH,  
SORTA...  
NOTHING  
SERIOUS.

W  
H  
A  
A  
A  
T  
?!

HEY, IT'S  
SEIKO-  
CHAN! HI!



I'M  
FINE,  
BUT...

ISN'T THAT  
TERRIBLE?

...I JUST  
HEARD  
OTANI  
SENPAI'S  
BEEN  
INJURED!



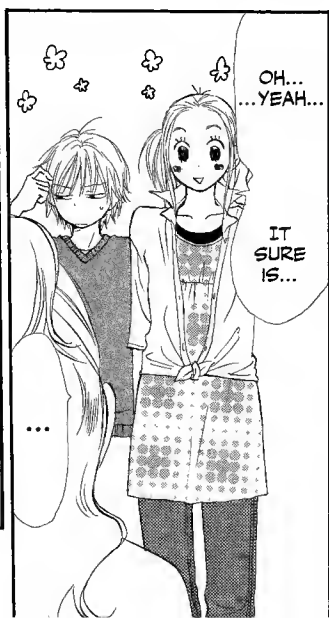
ACT LIKE  
EVERY-  
THING'S  
NORMAL!

THOSE'RE  
TWO  
NEWBORN  
FAWNS,  
STRUGGLING  
TO STAND  
ON THEIR  
SPINDLY  
LEGS!

HUH?

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?  
THEY'RE  
ACTING  
REALLY  
WEIRD.

DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?



OH...  
...YEAH...

IT  
SURE  
IS...

OH.

THE FIRST  
TIME YOU  
SHOW UP IN  
MONTHS, AND  
THOSE'RE  
THE FIRST  
WORDS  
OUTTA YOUR  
MOUTH?!

You're  
literally  
lame!

YOU'RE  
HURT!  
WHAT A  
DORK!  
WHAT A  
CLUMSY  
OAF!

WHAT'RE  
YOU DOING,  
SEIKO?  
C'MON,  
HURRY UP.

UH...  
HEARD  
WHAT?!

AND  
THEN  
YOU  
IGNORE  
ME?!

OH,  
YEAH!  
SO HEY,  
RISA, I  
HEARD!

PNK

UM...

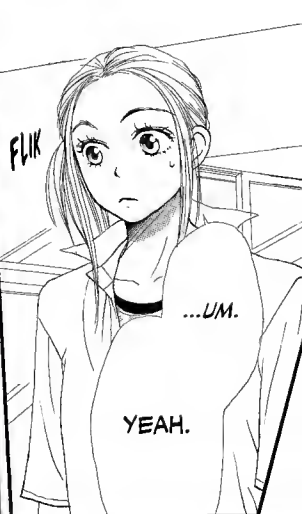
YOU  
STARTED  
A NEW CLUB  
CALLED THE  
MIGHTY GIRLS  
OR SOME-  
THING?







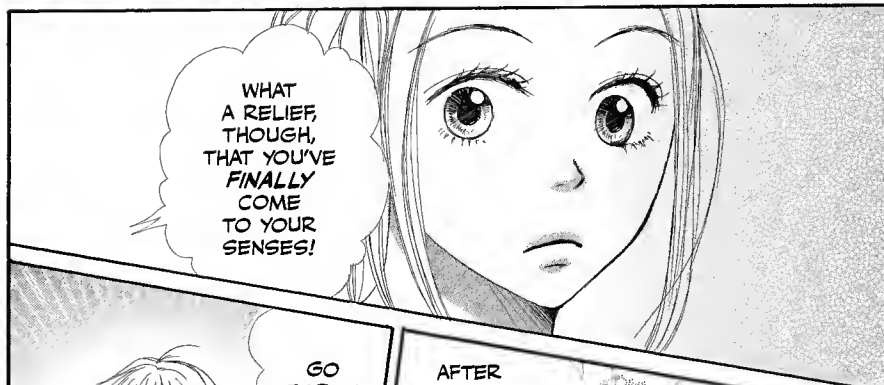
ISN'T  
HE, LIKE,  
**PERFECT?**



FLIK

...UM.

YEAH.



WHAT  
A RELIEF,  
THOUGH,  
THAT YOU'VE  
**FINALLY**  
COME  
TO YOUR  
SENSES!



GO  
FOR IT,  
RISA!

WELL  
**EXCUUUUSE**  
ME FOR  
BEING ONLY  
**ONE-MILLIONTH**  
**AS COOL AS**  
**MIGHTY!!**

UH,  
YEAH...



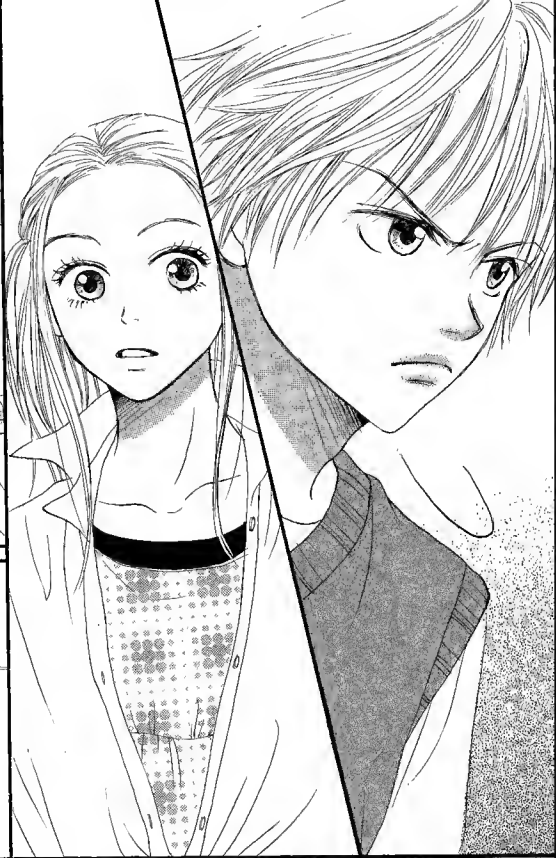
AFTER  
ALL,  
MIGHTY'S  
ONLY **A**  
**MILLION**  
TIMES  
COOLER  
THAN THIS  
MIDGET  
HERE!

IN FACT,  
MIGHTY'S  
THE ONE  
**PERSON I**  
WOULDN'T  
MIND  
SEEING  
YOU WITH!

THIS  
SHRIMP IS  
HISTORY,  
RIGHT?  
YOU'VE  
SWITCHED  
OVER TO  
MIGHTY!  
GOOD FOR  
YOU, RISA!

HUH?!





HMMM...

I'M  
GOING  
STRAIGHT  
HOME  
TODAY.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU,  
RISA?

UMMM...

blah

blah

Bye!

KYUP

KYUP

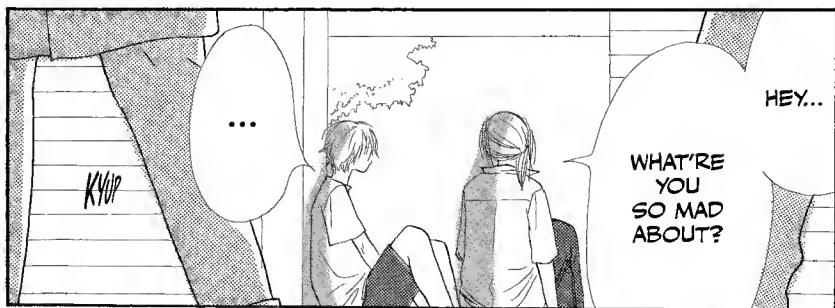
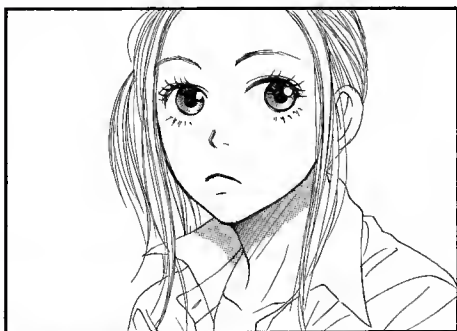
BWOOP

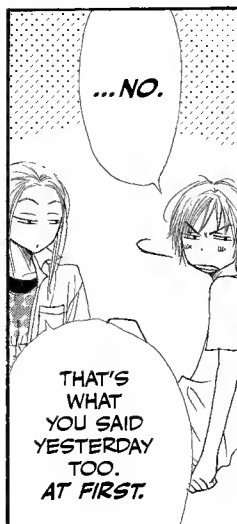
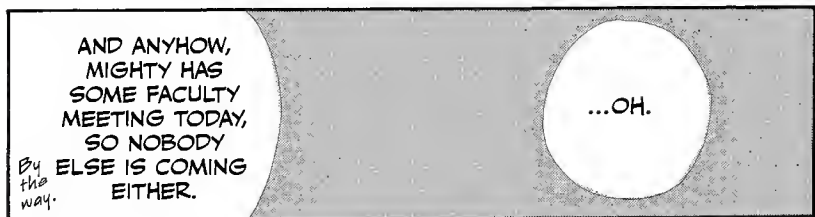
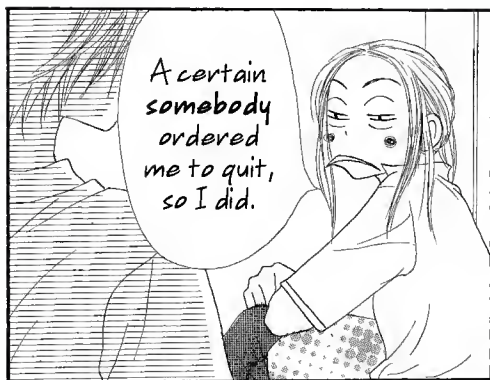
KYUP

KYUP

Bye Bye Bye

...







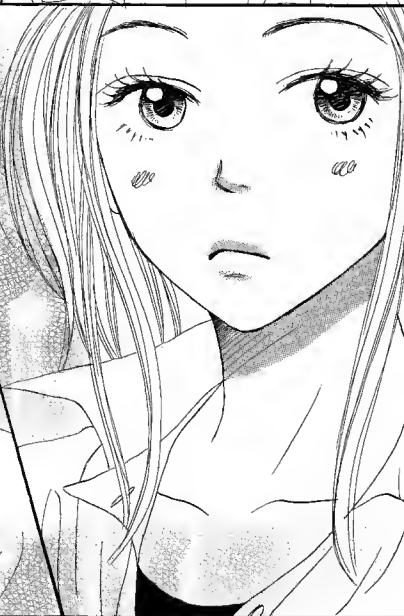


ALL  
RIGHT,  
I'M *SORRY*,  
NOW JUST  
*SHUT UP!!*  
I'M SORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT!!



AND  
THEN YOU  
ACTUALLY  
*ABDUCTED*  
ME...

BUT  
THEN MIGHTY  
SHOWED UP, AND  
SUDDENLY YOU  
WERE SINGING A  
DIFFERENT TUNE.  
I HAD TO TAKE  
YOU HOME, YOU'RE  
THE ONE I LOVE,  
ETCETERA,  
ETCETERA...



HUH?  
KARAOKE?

KARAOKE.



...HOW?

...SO  
MAKE  
IT UP  
TO ME.



STARTING  
THIS MONTH,  
THEY'RE  
SUPPOSED TO  
HAVE EVERY  
SINGLE  
SONG FROM  
UMBÔZU'S  
NEW ALBUM.



TOK

ONE  
THING  
I DO  
KNOW IS,  
I HATE  
IT WHEN  
THINGS  
GET SO  
WEIRD  
BETWEEN  
US.

BUT...



HE'S  
JEALOUS,  
RISA.  
IT'S SO  
OBVIOUS.

WE'RE  
GOING!!  
TODAY!!  
MY  
TREAT!!

I THINK  
HE'S IN  
LOVE  
WITH YOU,  
RISA.



I'LL GO  
GET YOUR  
BIKE FOR  
YOU AND  
WAIT OUT  
FRONT,  
OKAY?



COOL!

I CAN'T  
FIGURE  
ÔTANI  
OUT.

I'LL  
NEVER  
KNOW  
WHAT HE'S  
THINKING,  
NO MATTER  
HOW HARD  
I TRY.



ISN'T SHE?



RISA'S A WONDERFUL GIRL, ISN'T SHE?

Y U L P



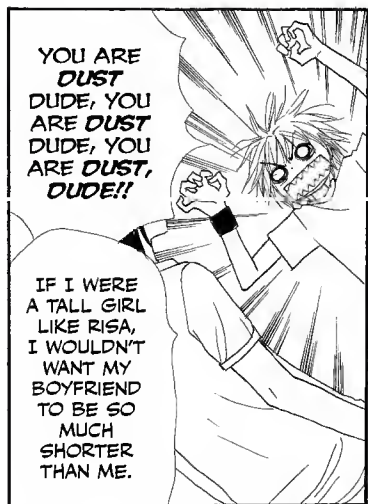
...WHAT?

YOU GOT SOMETHING YOU WANNA SAY TO ME?

HA  
HA  
HA  
OF COURSE YOU DO.



...I DONT NEED YOU TO TELL ME THAT, 'CUZ I ALREADY KNOW IT.









HEY,  
WHO  
ASKED  
FOR  
YOUR  
CRUMMY  
ADVICE  
ANYWAY?!

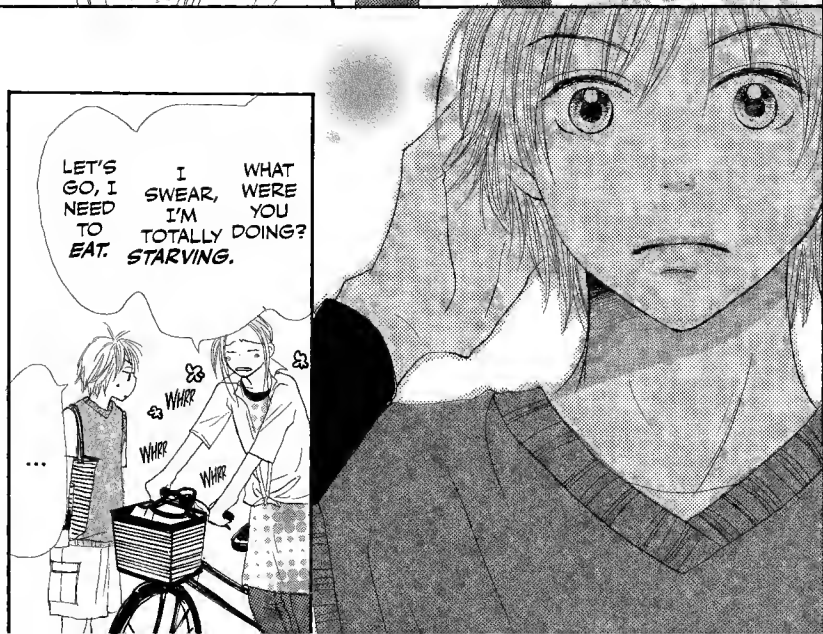


THERE  
HE IS.

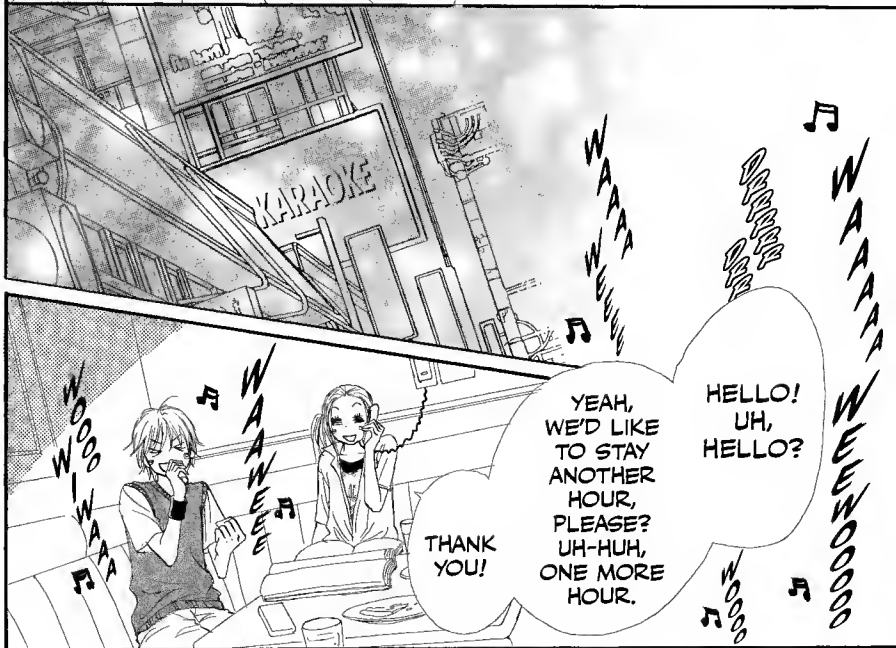
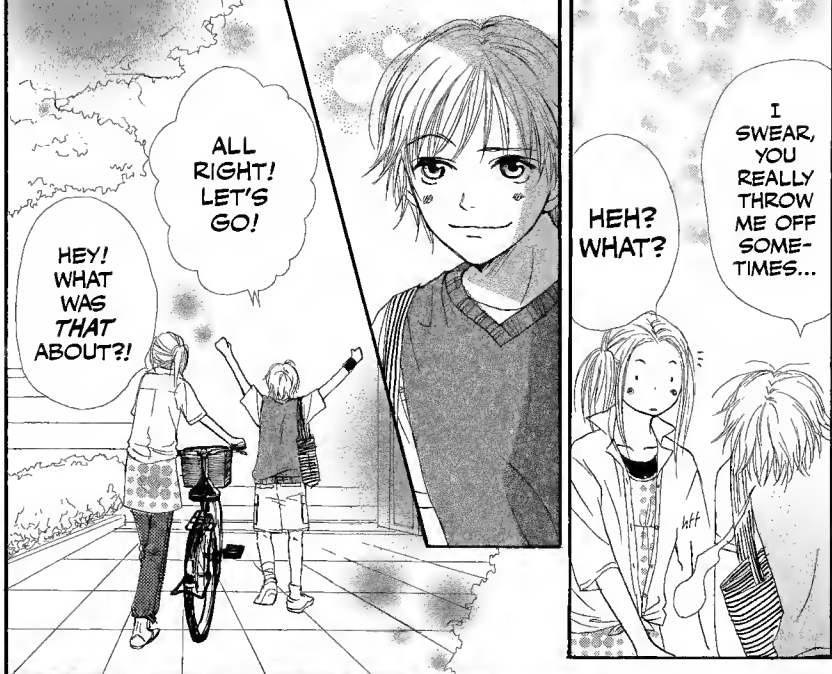
OH.



WHAT'S  
TAKING  
HIM SO  
LONG  
...?









OKAY,  
ME  
NEXT!  
THIS  
ONE'S  
MINE!

NO WAY,  
I WAS  
GONNA  
SING  
THAT  
ONE!!

TOO BAD!  
FIRST  
COME,  
FIRST  
SERVED!  
♡



BUT  
YOU  
WANNA,  
DON'T  
YOU?

HEY, HOW  
ABOUT  
ASKING  
ME FIRST,  
SINCE I'M  
THE ONE  
WHO'S  
PAYING?



MEEE  
TOOOO!

TOTAL-  
LEEEEE!  
♡



OMIGOSH!  
CAN YOU  
BELIEVE  
IT?!

*It's ten  
o'clock!*

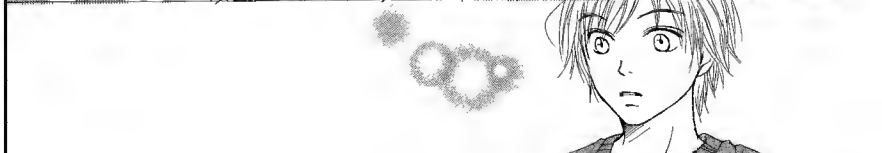
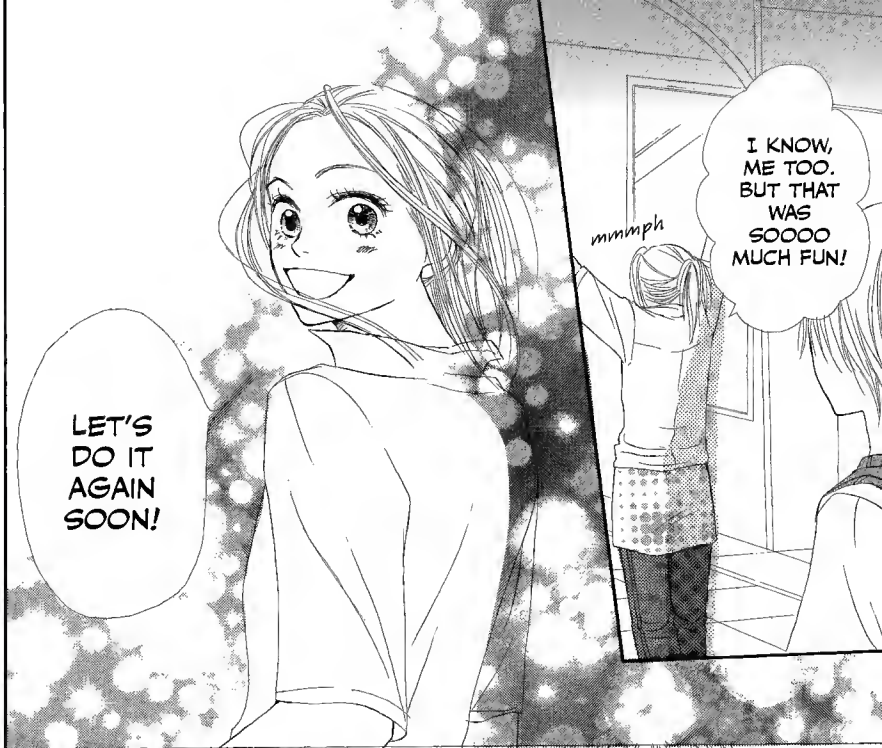
I SANG  
TOO  
MUCH,  
MAN. MY  
THROAT  
HURTS.



*I love  
this  
song so  
much.*

...OH,  
GOOD.

HE'S  
BACK TO  
NORMAL.





THAT'S  
OKAY.  
COME ON,  
YOU GET  
ON THE  
BACK.

I'LL  
PEDAL  
WITH  
ONE  
FOOT.

HEY,  
KOIZUMI.  
GET  
ON THE  
BACK.

DIDN'T  
SEEM TO  
BOTHER  
YOU  
BEFORE.

JUST  
SHUT  
UP AND  
GET  
ON.

HOW'S  
THAT MAKE  
ME LOOK?  
GETTING A  
RIDE FROM  
A GIRL.

BUT...  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
ANKLE?

IT'S  
LATE.  
I'LL  
TAKE  
YOU  
HOME.

I'M NOT  
HEAVY,  
YOU'RE  
JUST  
REALLY  
WEAK.

Excuse  
me?

MAN,  
YOU'RE  
HEAVY!

WOBBLE



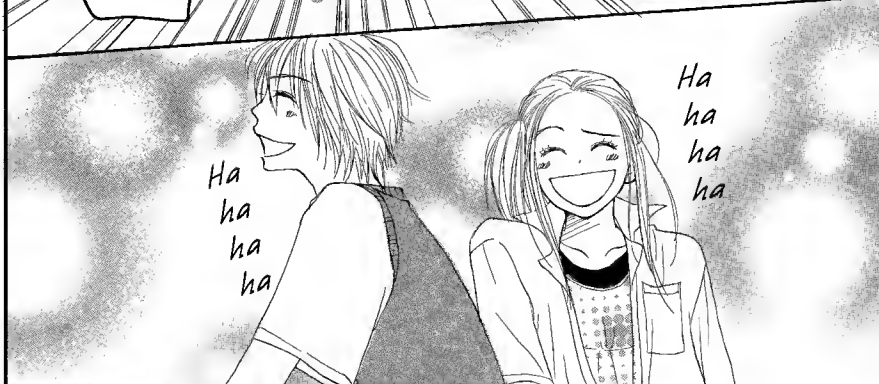
SLOW  
DOWN!  
OTANI!  
SLOW  
DOWN,  
PLEEEZE!!

I'M  
GONNA  
FALL  
OFF!!

ZWOOM

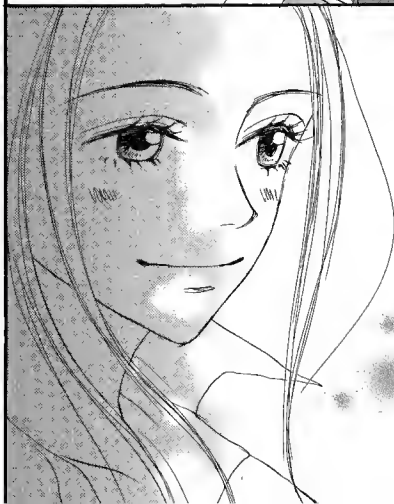
AAAAA  
G  
AAAAA  
G  
AAAAA  
G  
AAAAA  
G

RRRR



Ha  
ha  
ha  
ha

Ha  
ha  
ha  
ha



JUST  
HANGING  
OUT AND  
GOOFING  
AROUND  
LIKE WE  
ALWAYS DO.

...YEAH.  
THIS IS  
WHAT  
I LIKE  
BEST.



THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
I QUIT.

...OH  
YEAH.

I DECIDED  
I'M NOT  
IN LOVE  
WITH HIM  
ANYMORE.  
SO IT'S  
FINE.



"I'M  
GONNA  
QUIT  
BEING  
IN LOVE  
WITH YOU,  
SO  
THERE!!"

I WONDER  
WHY THE  
MOMENT  
I MENTION  
LOVE,  
WE CAN'T  
HAVE FUN  
LIKE THIS  
ANYMORE.



HMM?

HEY,  
ÔTANI  
...?

IF I KEEP  
MY MOUTH  
SHUT ABOUT  
LOVING HIM  
AND GOING  
OUT AND  
STUFF,  
WE CAN  
ALWAYS BE  
LIKE THIS.

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT  
ANYMORE,  
OKAY?

IF YOU'VE  
BEEN IN A  
BAD MOOD  
LATELY  
BECAUSE  
OF STUFF  
I SAID OR  
DID...



BUT I  
WON'T SAY  
ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT  
TO YOU  
ANYMORE,  
OKAY?



I KNOW  
I MUST'VE  
MADE YOU  
REALLY  
UNCOMFORT-  
ABLE BY  
TELLING YOU  
I LOVE YOU  
AND STUFF.

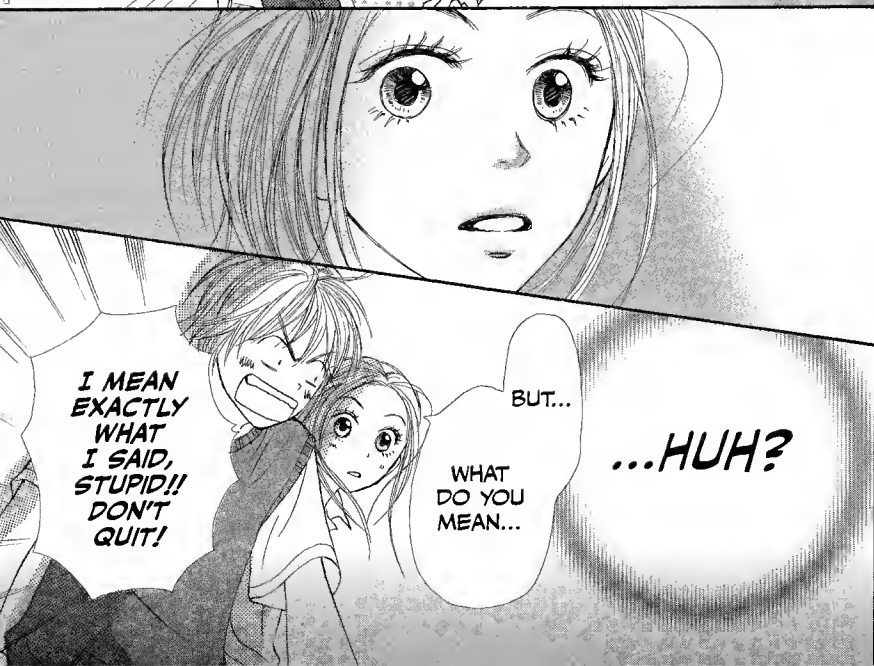


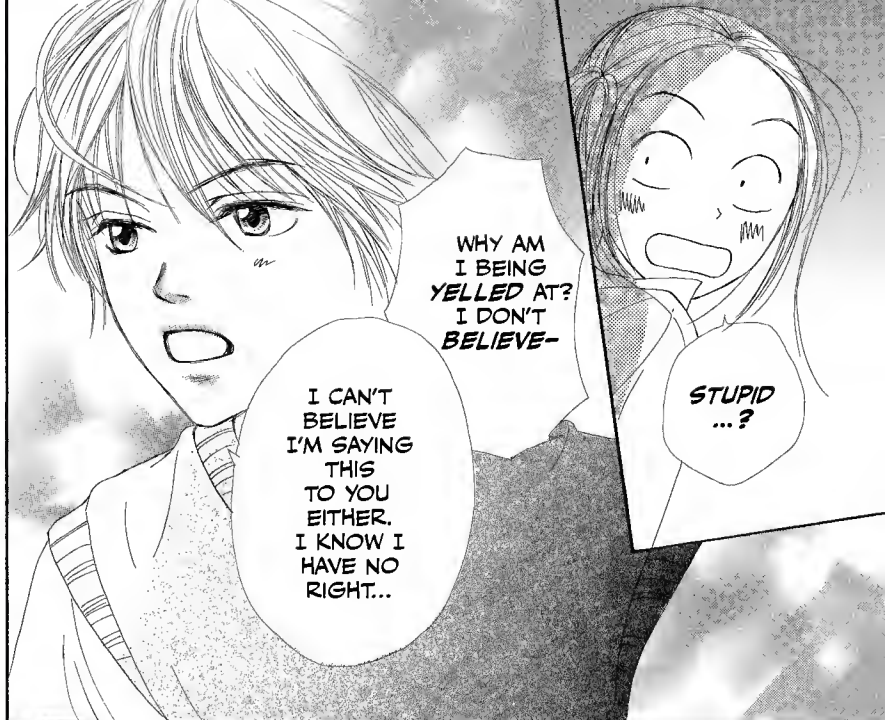
THIS TIME  
I'M GONNA  
QUIT FOR  
REAL SO  
WE CAN  
JUST BE  
FRIENDS  
AGAIN.

DON'T.



...I  
PROMISE.





WHY AM  
I BEING  
**YELLED AT?**  
I DON'T  
**BELIEVE--**

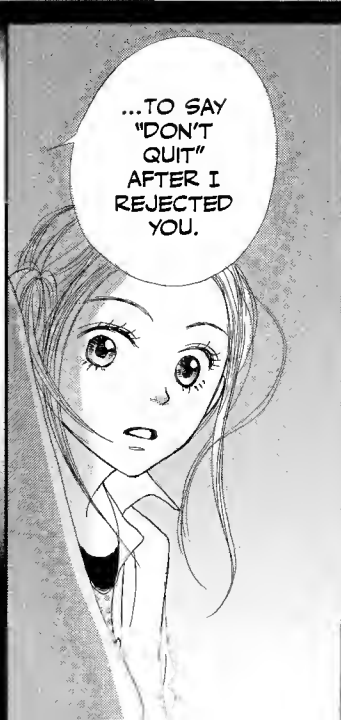
I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
I'M SAYING  
THIS  
TO YOU  
EITHER.  
I KNOW I  
HAVE NO  
RIGHT...

**STUPID**  
...?



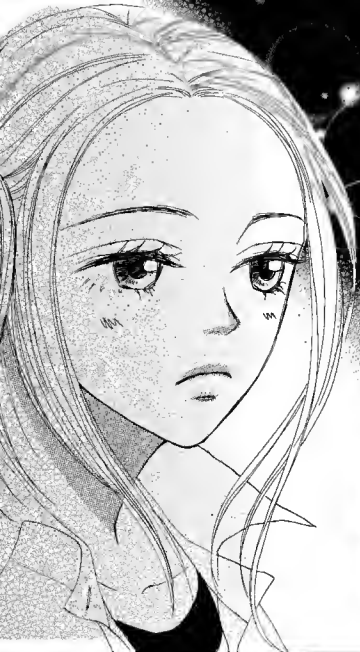
...

...YOU  
SURE  
DON'T.



...TO SAY  
"DON'T  
QUIT"  
AFTER I  
REJECTED  
YOU.





I'M  
SORRY.



I CAN'T JUST  
SUDDENLY  
START GOING  
OUT WITH YOU  
OR THINKING  
OF YOU  
THAT WAY.

BUT  
SEE...

I DON'T  
KNOW,  
THINGS'RE  
DIFFERENT  
NOW.

FROM  
THEN.

...HUH?

...



YOU  
SAY YOU'RE  
GONNA QUIT  
LOVING ME, I  
DON'T WANT  
YOU TO.

I SEE YOU  
ALL OVER  
MIGHTY ALL  
THE TIME,  
IT PISSES  
ME OFF.



...YEAH.  
I'LL DO  
THAT.



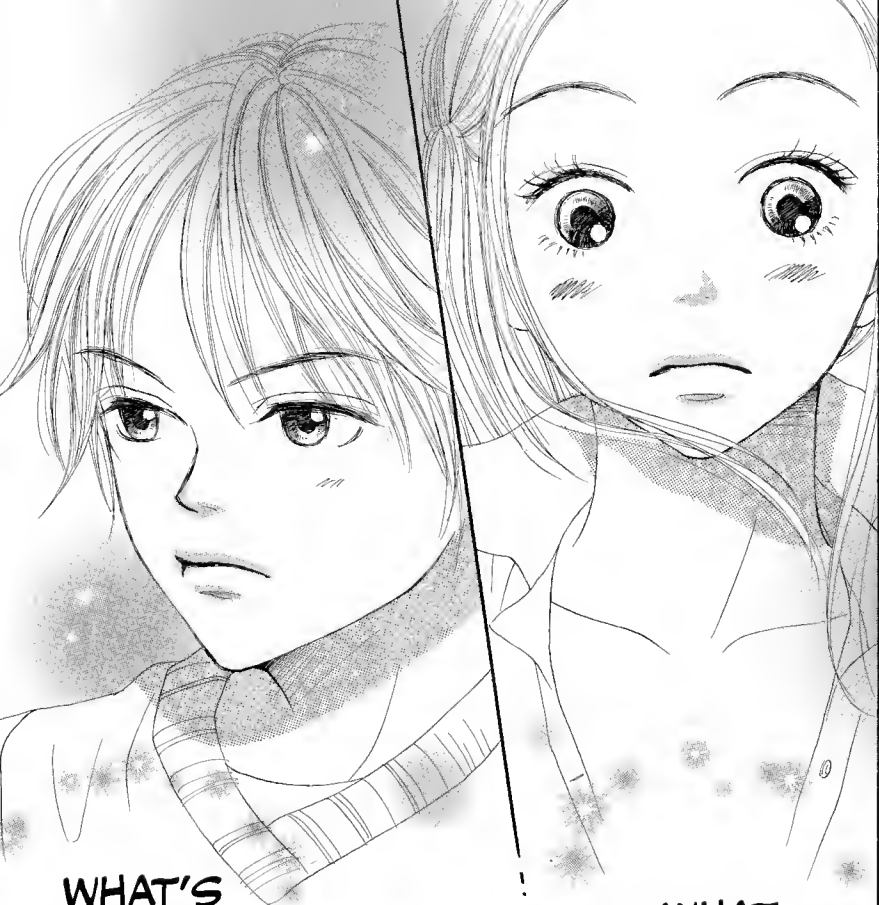
WELL,  
CAN'T  
HELP  
YOU  
THERE.

...

YOU  
FIGURE  
IT OUT  
YOURSELF.

WHAT-  
EVER.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER  
WITH ME.



WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

...WHAT  
IS  
THIS?





YOU SAY  
YOU'RE  
GONNA QUIT  
LOVING ME,  
I DON'T  
WANT  
YOU TO.

I SEE  
YOU ALL  
OVER  
MIGHTY  
ALL THE  
TIME, IT  
PISSES  
ME OFF.

YOU'RE ALWAYS  
CHASING MIGHTY  
AROUND, SO  
HE'S JEALOUS.  
IT'S TOTALLY  
OBVIOUS.

...WHAT?

...HEY  
...

GOSH.

I HAVE  
SO MANY  
THINGS  
I WANT  
TO ASK  
HIM RIGHT  
NOW.

DON'T.

...SO  
I'M KINDA  
SCARED  
TO ASK  
ANYWAY.

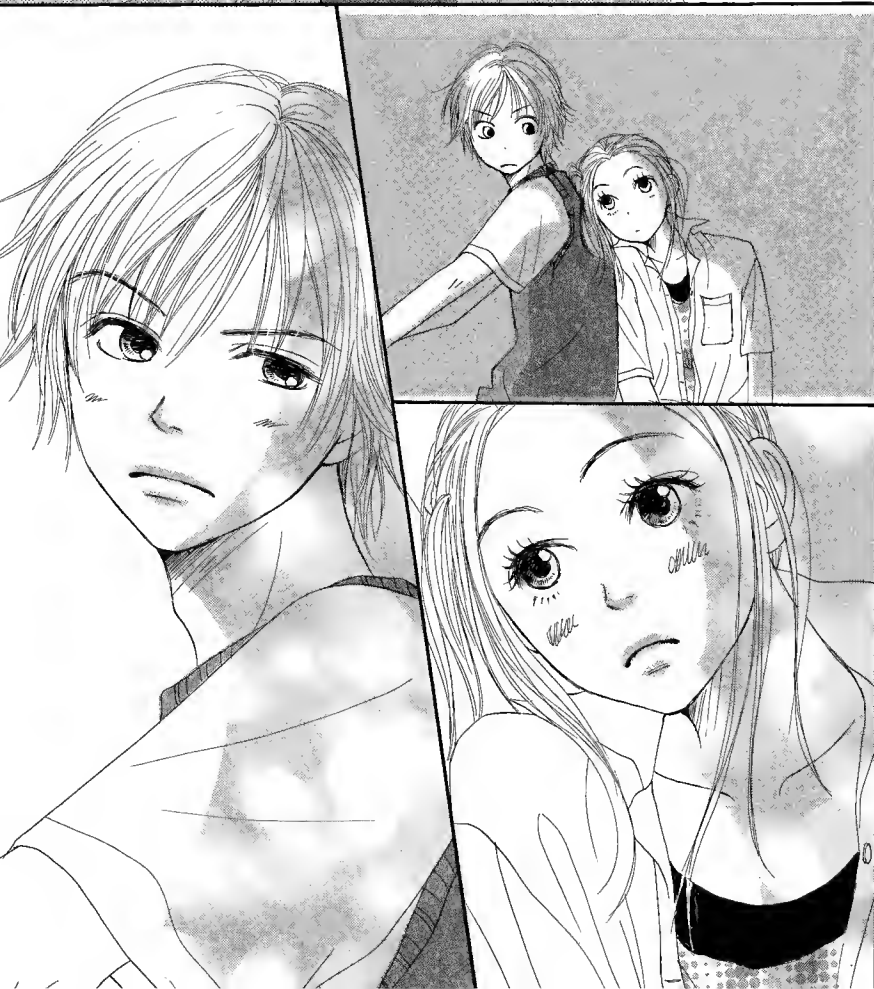
GUYS IN  
LOVE ARE  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE  
REALLY  
HIGH-  
STRUNG...

...OKAY.  
WHATEVER.

...NOTHING.  
FORGET IT.

...







IT'S  
NOT  
FUNNY.

HYUK  
HYUK  
HYUK  
HYUK  
HYUK!

...YOU  
WEIGH  
A TON.

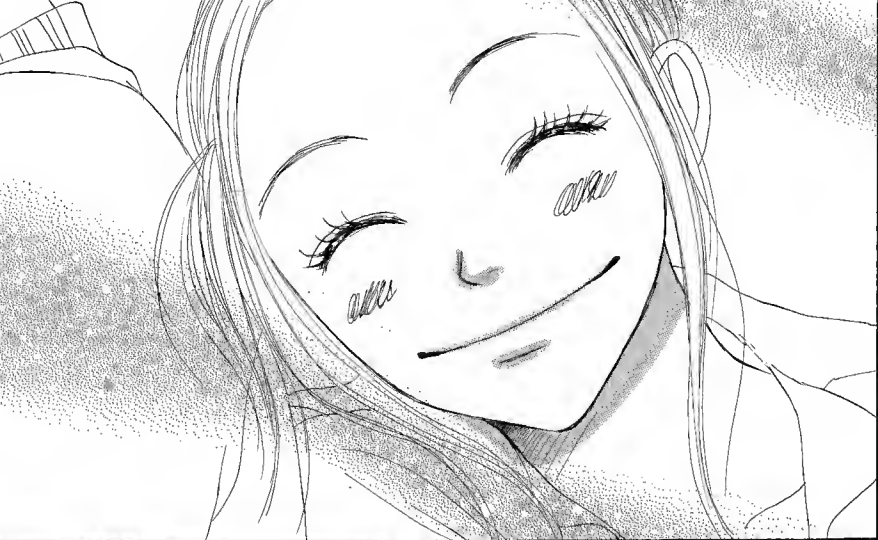
PFFF!

HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH!

AS IF  
I EVER  
**COULD**  
QUIT  
LOVING  
YOU.

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?  
OF  
COURSE  
I'M NOT  
GOING  
TO QUIT.

DON'T  
QUIT.



**I'M  
TOTALLY  
CRAZY  
ABOUT  
YOU,  
STUPID!!**

**HUH?!  
WHAT'D  
YOU  
JUST  
SAY?!**



**IT'S  
MAGIC!  
IT'S  
MIGHTY'S  
MAGIC!**





CHECK!



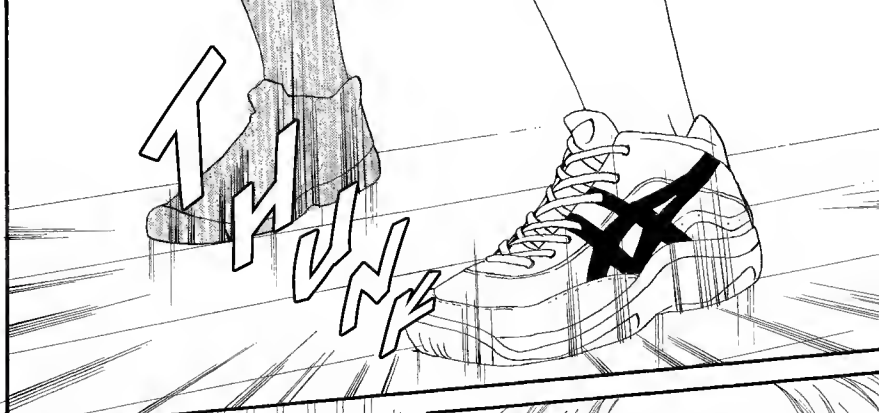
# Inside Report! Love★Com Drama CD Recording







## CHAPTER 26



IT  
CERTAINLY  
LOOKS  
THAT WAY.

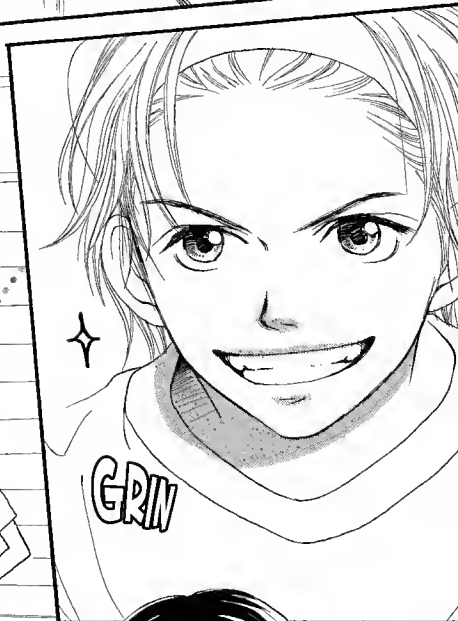
I AM AT  
THE TOP  
OF MY  
GAME!!  
HA-HAH!

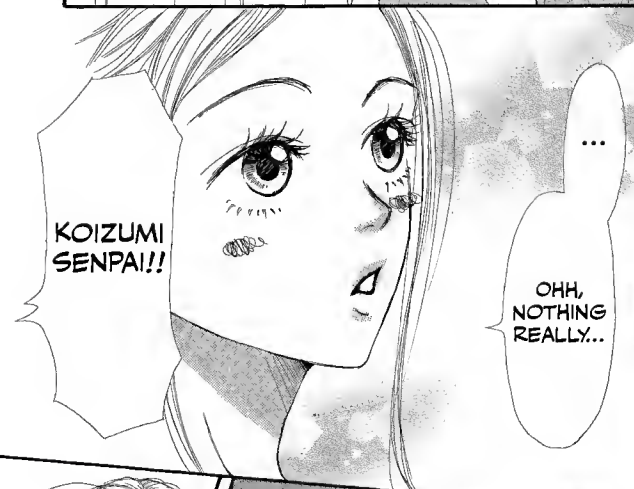
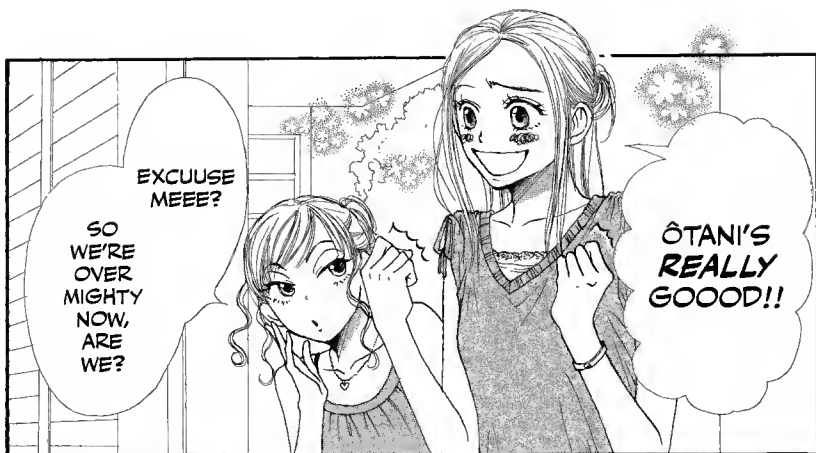
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA

W  
O  
W  
W  
W  
W  
!!

I'LL  
PLAY  
YOU AS  
MANY  
TIMES  
AS YOU  
WANT!!

I AM  
NEVER  
LOSING  
TO YOU  
AGAIN,  
DUDE!!







WHO EVER  
THOUGHT  
THAT MIGHTY  
WOULD BE  
**ENGAGED**  
TO SOME-  
BODY?!

IT'S JUST  
SUCH A  
**SHOCK!!**



THIS IS  
THE END  
OF THE  
MIGHTY  
GIRLS,  
ISN'T IT?!

UH...

WELL...

MY GOSH,  
MIGHTY,  
YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
SEEN HOW  
BUMMED  
OUT THEY  
ALL WERE.

SO I DON'T  
MIND, BUT  
I WONDER  
WHERE THEY  
HEARD  
ABOUT IT.



HA  
HA  
HA.

I DIDN'T  
TELL  
PEOPLE,  
BUT I  
WASN'T  
REALLY  
HIDING IT  
EITHER.

HE  
**IS?!**







YOU  
ARE  
SUCH  
A  
LIAR!

NOTHING  
REALLY  
HAPPENED,  
NOBU!



UH.

YOU  
DON'T  
SEEM VERY  
BUMMED  
OUT  
THOUGH,  
RISA. ARE  
YOU?

I SWEAR,  
MIGHTY,  
RISA'S  
BEING  
TOTALLY  
SECRETIVE  
AND NOT  
TELLING  
ME A  
THING!

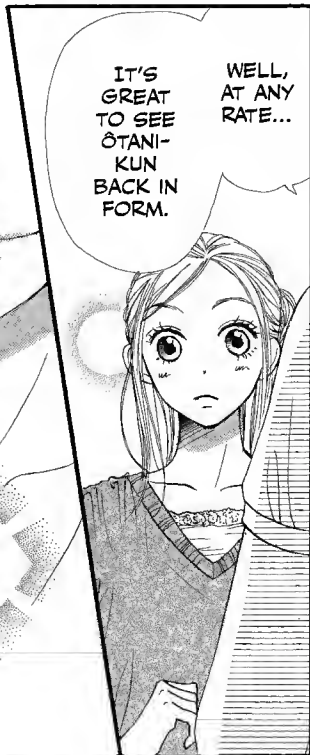
I JUST  
KNOW  
SOME-  
THING  
HAPPENED  
BETWEEN  
HER AND  
ÔTANI  
TOO.



HE  
REALLY  
IS,  
TOO.

YEAH!

...



IT'S  
GREAT  
TO SEE  
ÔTANI-  
KUN  
BACK IN  
FORM.

WELL,  
AT ANY  
RATE...



HE'LL BE  
QUITTING  
THE TEAM  
AT THE END  
OF THIS  
SEMESTER...

...SO HE'S  
PRACTICING  
EXTRA  
HARD FOR  
HIS LAST  
GAME.



OVER  
HERE,  
DUDES!

HIS  
ANKLE'S  
TOTALLY  
FINE  
AGAIN,  
AND HE'S  
PLAYING  
REALLY  
WELL.



I SEE YOU  
ALL OVER  
MIGHTY  
ALL THE  
TIME, IT  
PISSES  
ME OFF.



YOU SAY  
YOU'RE  
GONNA  
QUIT  
LOVING  
ME, I  
DON'T  
WANT  
YOU TO.

THIS  
TIME I'M  
GONNA  
QUIT FOR  
REAL SO  
WE CAN  
JUST BE  
FRIENDS  
AGAIN.



DON'T.

HEE  
HEE  
HEE!

HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH!

WHAT?  
JEEZ,  
RISA!  
WHAT'S  
SO  
FUNNY?  
*You're  
loony.*

...HYUK!

I DON'T  
KNOW...

...WHAT  
EXACTLY  
HE MEANT  
BY ALL  
THAT THE  
OTHER  
DAY.

BUT  
WHATEVER  
HE MEANT,  
IT MADE  
ME REALLY,  
REALLY  
HAPPY.

I KEEP  
PLAYING IT  
BACK OVER  
AND OVER  
AND JUST  
LAUGHING  
WITH JOY.

UH-  
HUH  
...?

*Tee  
hee.*

NOTHING.  
SORRY.

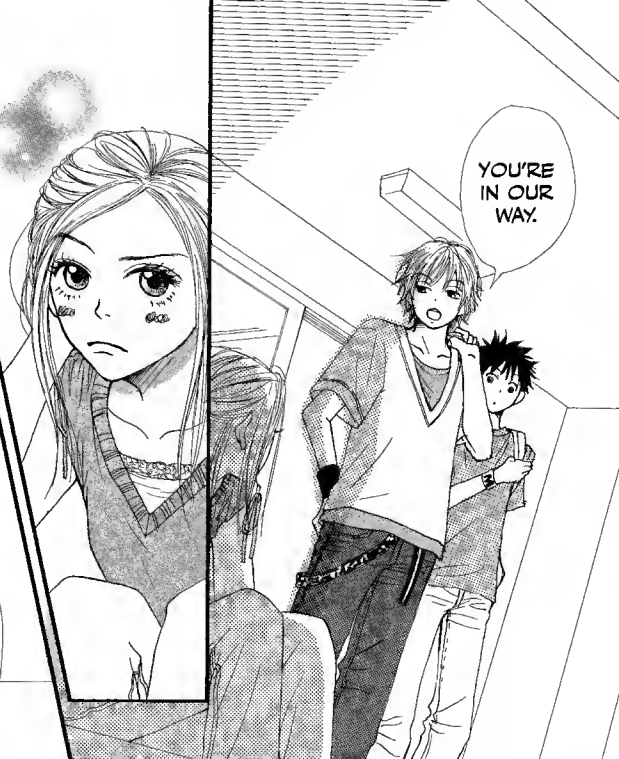
HEY!  
WHAT WAS  
THAT  
FOR? IT  
REALLY  
HURT....!

**BOW!**

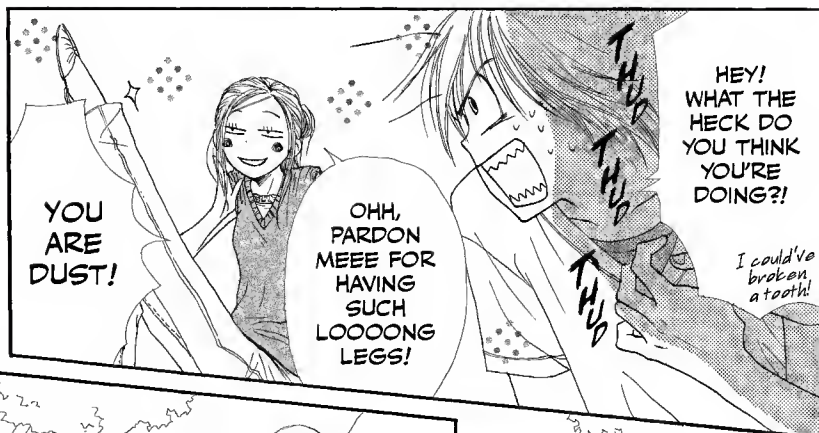
OWW!

IN FACT,  
I'M IN SUCH  
A GOOD MOOD  
THAT IF SOME-  
ONE SOCKED  
ME FOR NO  
REASON, I'D  
JUST SMILE  
AT THEM.

♡





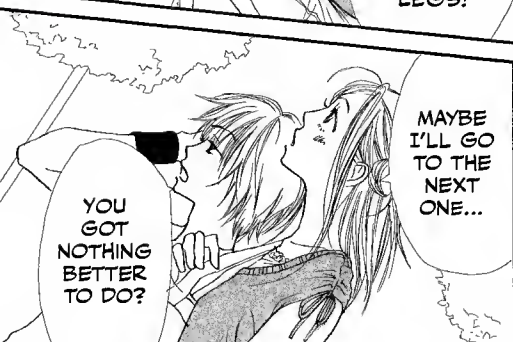


YOU  
ARE  
DUST!

OH,  
PARDON  
MEEE FOR  
HAVING  
SUCH  
LOOOONG  
LEGS!

HEY!  
WHAT THE  
HECK DO  
YOU THINK  
YOU'RE  
DOING?!

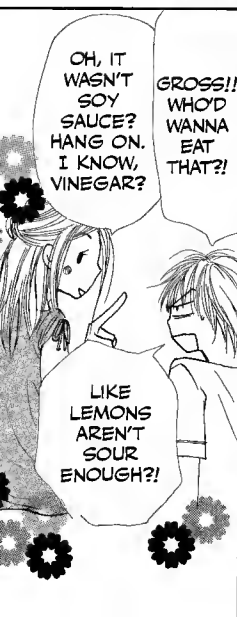
*I could've  
broken  
a tooth!*



YOU  
GOT  
NOTHING  
BETTER  
TO DO?

MAYBE  
I'LL GO  
TO THE  
NEXT  
ONE...

ALTHOUGH  
ACTUALLY,  
NOTHING  
SEEMS  
TO HAVE  
CHANGED A  
WHOLE LOT  
BETWEEN US.



OH, IT  
WASN'T  
SOY  
SAUCE?  
HANG ON.  
I KNOW,  
VINEGAR?

GROSS!!  
WHO'D  
WANNA  
EAT  
THAT?!

LIKE  
LEMONS  
AREN'T  
SOUR  
ENOUGH?!



WHATSIT?

OH, I  
KNOW!  
I'LL  
MAKE  
YOU  
WHATSIT  
AND  
BRING IT  
TO THE  
GAME!

YOU KNOW,  
WHAT THE CUTE  
MANAGER GIRL  
ALWAYS BRINGS  
FOR THE GUYS.  
WHAT WAS IT,  
LEMONS  
PICKLED IN  
SOY SAUCE?



ARE  
BASKET-  
BALL  
GAMES  
ALWAYS  
ON WEEK-  
ENDS?

UH-  
HUH.



...FINE, BE  
THAT WAY.  
I'LL GIVE  
THEM TO  
MIGHTY, SO  
THERE!!

HEY!  
I WANTED  
TO GO  
CHEER YOU  
ON AND  
OFFER MY  
SUPPORT!!

DO ME A  
FAVOR AND  
STAY HOME.  
JUST STAY  
HOME.



SUPPORT  
LIKE THAT  
I CAN DO  
WITHOUT.  
GIVE YOUR  
LEMONS TO  
THE OTHER  
TEAM, MAN.

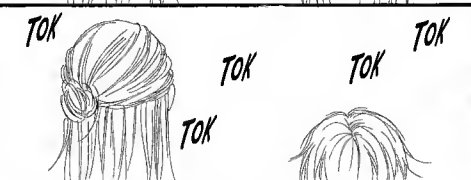
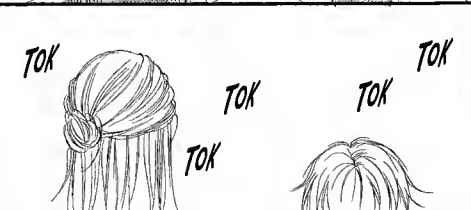


Ha-  
hah!!

SO IT'S  
HASTA  
LA VISTA,  
MIGHTY  
BIG PAIN-IN-  
THE-BUTT  
CHEESE-  
BALL!!

WELL,  
TOO BAD!!  
OUR **REAL**  
COACH IS  
COMING  
BACK  
TOMORROW!!






I SEE YOU  
ALL OVER  
MIGHTY ALL  
THE TIME,  
IT REALLY  
PISSSES  
ME OFF.



WHO,  
ME?  
I'M NOT  
SNIG-  
GERING.

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
SNIGGER-  
ING  
ABOUT?!



OHH!  
OKAY!

honey  
honey  
honey

...  
LOOK,  
IF YOU  
BRING  
LEMONS,  
SLICE 'EM  
AND PICKLE  
'EM IN  
**HONEY.**  
OKAY?

BUT  
EVEN  
SO...

HONEY-  
LEMON,  
SHE'S  
MAKING  
HIM.

HOW  
SWEET.  
AND  
KINDA  
TART!

...IT FEELS  
LIKE WE'VE  
TAKEN A  
BIG STEP  
FORWARD.





HE  
SURE  
DOES!  
IT'S  
TOTALLY  
IN HIS  
HANDS  
NOW!

CLUE HIM  
IN, BABY!  
HE NEEDS  
TO BE  
PUSHED.

YEAH, ME  
TOO. THE  
REST IS UP  
TO OTANI,  
BASICALLY.  
HE NEEDS  
TO MAKE  
A MOVE.

AAAAARGH!

I WISH  
THOSE  
TWO  
WOULD  
JUST  
HURRY UP  
AND GET  
TOGETHER!



EXCEPT  
I HAVE  
NO IDEA  
HOW TO  
DO THAT.

I WANT  
TO MOVE  
ONE STEP  
BEYOND  
THIS.

YOU  
LEAVE IT UP  
TO THOSE  
TWO, BY  
THE TIME  
YOUNG  
LOVE TAKES  
ITS COURSE,  
WE'LL ALL  
BE OLD!

NAH.  
LET'S  
LET  
YOUNG  
LOVE  
TAKE ITS  
COURSE.

NOW,  
TO GO  
A LITTLE  
FURTHER.



HEH?



IF YOU  
DON'T  
DO IT,  
I WILL!!

JUMP HIM,  
KNOCK  
HIM DOWN  
AND HAVE  
YOUR WAY  
WITH HIM!!

HOW'S  
THAT  
GONNA  
HELP?!



TAKE...  
HIM...  
BY...  
FORCE  
...



LOOK,  
I'M  
OKAY.

WHAT  
?!

I'VE  
DECIDED  
I'M JUST  
GONNA BE  
PATIENT  
AND WAIT.



OH!  
IT'S  
OTANI-  
KUN...

WELL,  
YEAH,  
'CUZ...

YOU'RE  
SERIOUSLY  
PLANNING  
TO JUST SIT  
THERE AND  
DO NOTHING  
UNTIL HE  
MAKES THE  
BIG MOVE?!

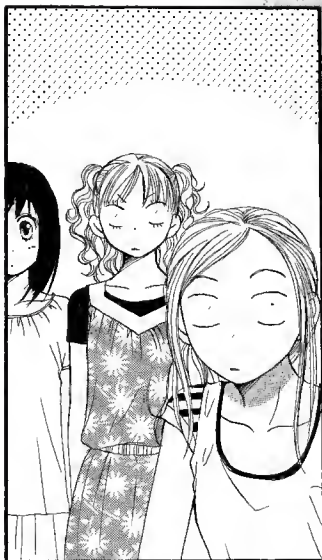
WAIT  
FOR  
OTANI?!



IF YOU'RE  
GONNA GET  
TOGETHER,  
JUST GET  
TOGETHER  
ALREADY!

WATCHING  
YOU TWO  
HEM AND  
HAW IS  
DRIVING  
ME  
BONKERS!

IT'S  
NOT  
THAT  
SIMPLE,  
OKAY?



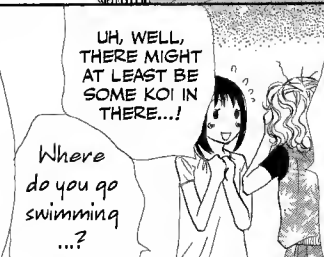
GOOD  
MOOORRR-  
NING,  
EVERY-  
BODYYYY!



WHAT'S  
UP?  
YOU'RE  
IN SUCH  
A GOOD  
MOOD.

UH, WELL,  
THERE MIGHT  
AT LEAST BE  
SOME KOI IN  
THERE...!

Where  
do you go  
swimming  
...?



...like,  
trying  
to catch  
fish in a  
swimming  
pool...

Waiting  
for that  
guy to  
make a  
move is  
like...



IT'S  
GONNA  
BE MY  
LAST BIG  
TOURNA-  
MENT.

I'M  
TOTALLY  
PSYCHED  
FOR IT.

TWACK

KTUNK



THEY'RE  
DRAWING  
TODAY TO  
DECIDE  
WHO PLAYS  
WHO IN THE  
DISTRICT  
CHAMPION-  
SHIPS.

YUP.

OH,  
BASKET-  
BALL?



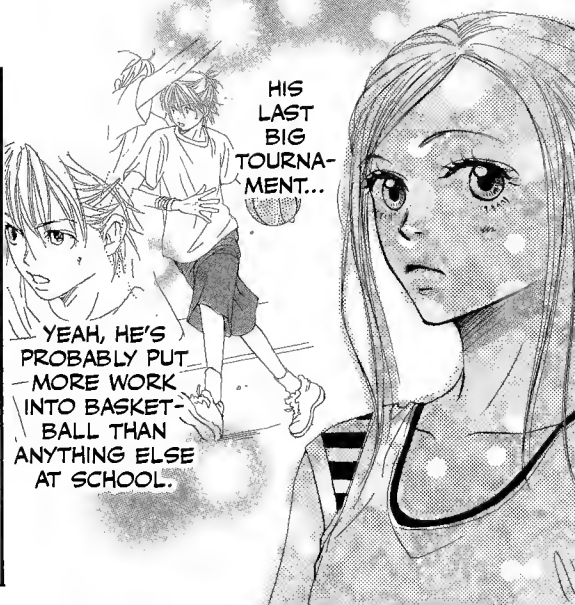


BE PRETTY  
FAR-OUT IF  
WE ENDED  
UP GOING  
ALL THE  
WAY TO THE  
FINALS!

GUESS  
HE  
WOULD  
BE  
REALLY  
PSYCHED  
FOR IT.

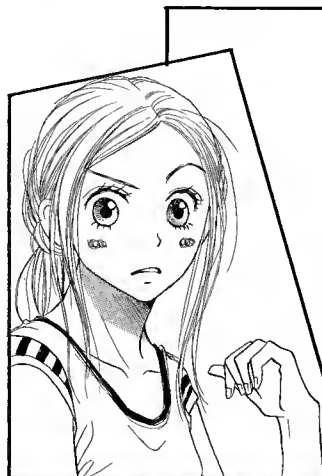
HEY,  
WHEN  
I GET  
SERIOUS,  
I GET  
SERIOUS.

YEAH,  
DREAM  
ON.

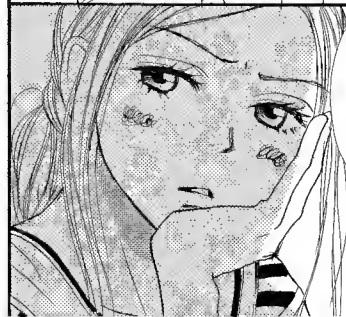


HIS  
LAST  
BIG  
TOURNA-  
MENT...

YEAH, HE'S  
PROBABLY PUT  
MORE WORK  
INTO BASKET-  
BALL THAN  
ANYTHING ELSE  
AT SCHOOL.



YOU JUST  
MIGHT FALL  
FOR ME  
ALL OVER  
AGAIN.



SAY  
WHAT  
YOU  
WANT,  
GIRL.

YOU  
ARE SO  
DELUDED.



Heh,  
heh,  
heh.

NVAR  
HAR  
HAR  
HAR





THIS  
BIG  
DOOFUS.



Bzzzz



POOR  
BABY'S  
GONNA BE  
ON THE  
BENCH.

ISN'T  
HE  
JUMPING  
THE  
GUN?



REALLY?  
YOU'LL  
COME  
WATCH?

WELL,  
YEAH,  
I'LL  
COME  
ALONG...

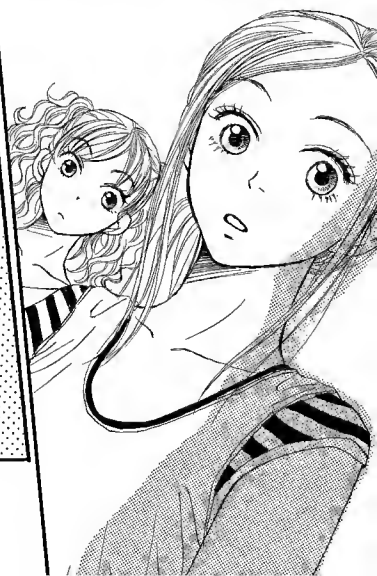
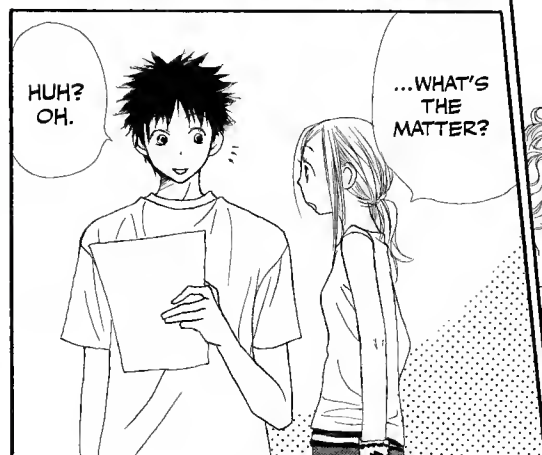
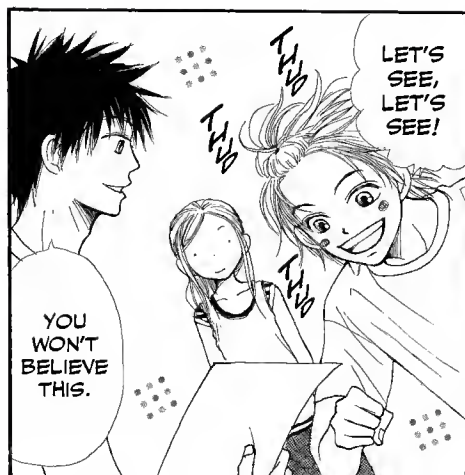
YOU'RE  
STILL  
COMING  
TO ROOT  
FOR THEM  
THOUGH,  
AREN'T  
YOU?

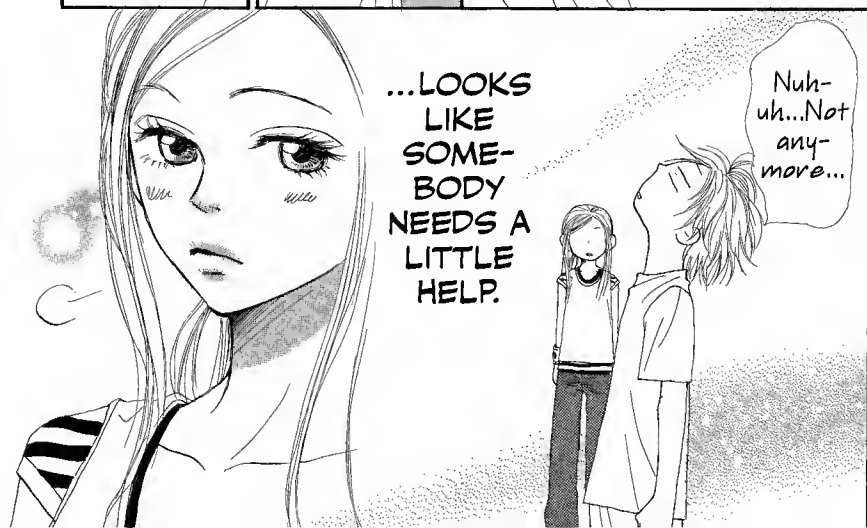
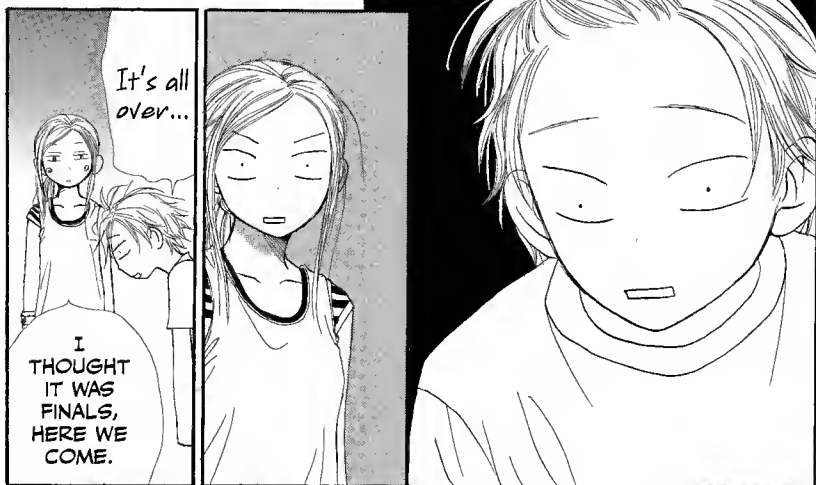
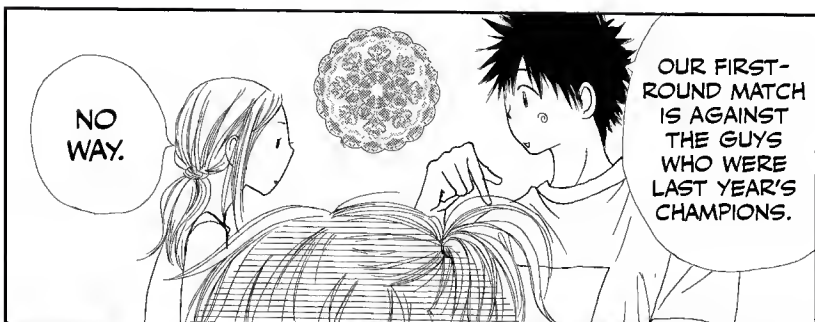


YEEEEAAH!!

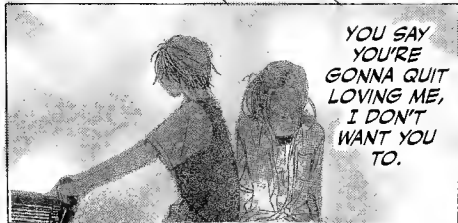
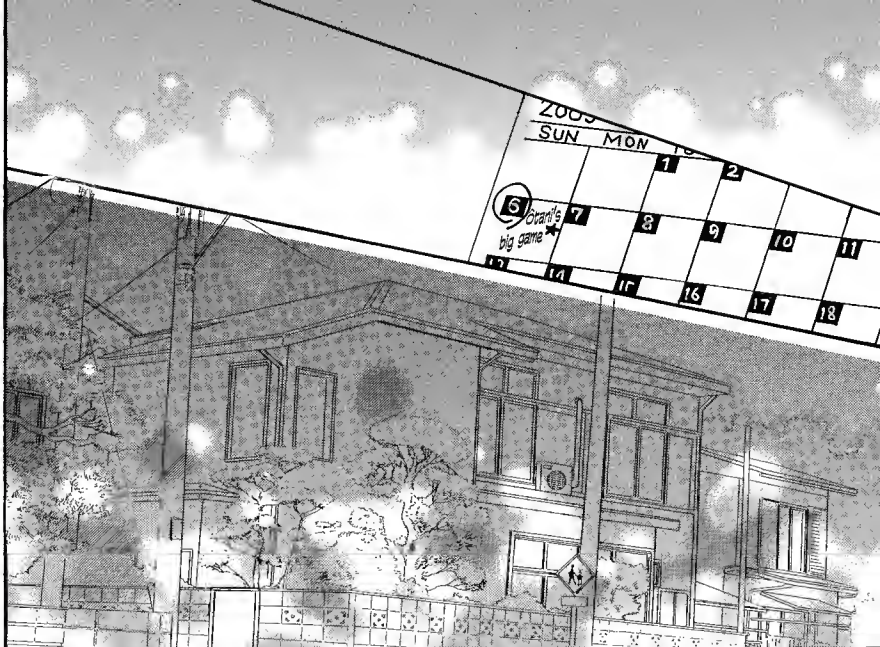


ALL  
RIGHT!!  
FINALS,  
HERE WE  
COME!!













UNTIL  
HE  
LOVES  
ME AS  
MUCH  
AS I  
LOVE  
HIM.

I WANT HIM  
TO CARE  
ABOUT ME,  
MORE AND  
MORE.

I  
WANT  
HIM...  
...TO  
FEEL  
MORE  
AND  
MORE  
LIKE  
THAT.



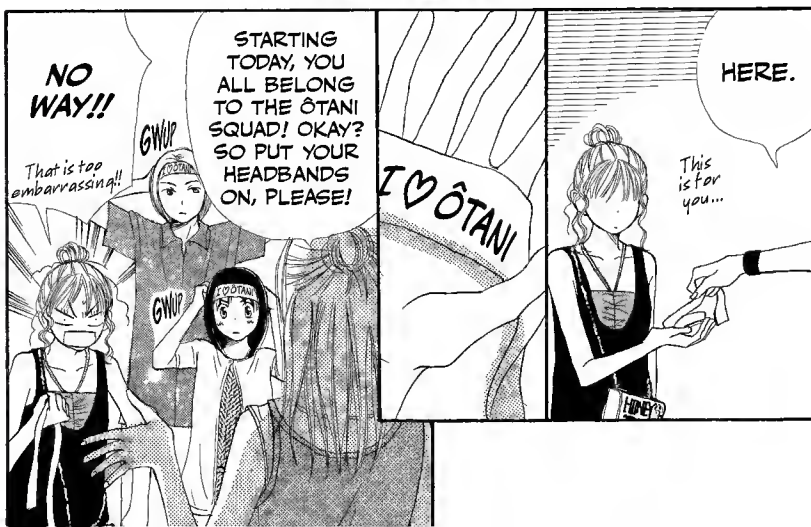
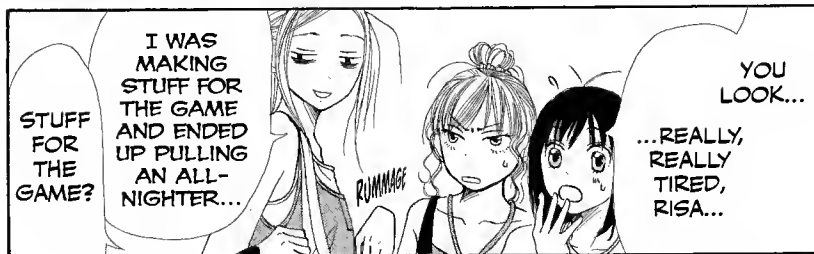
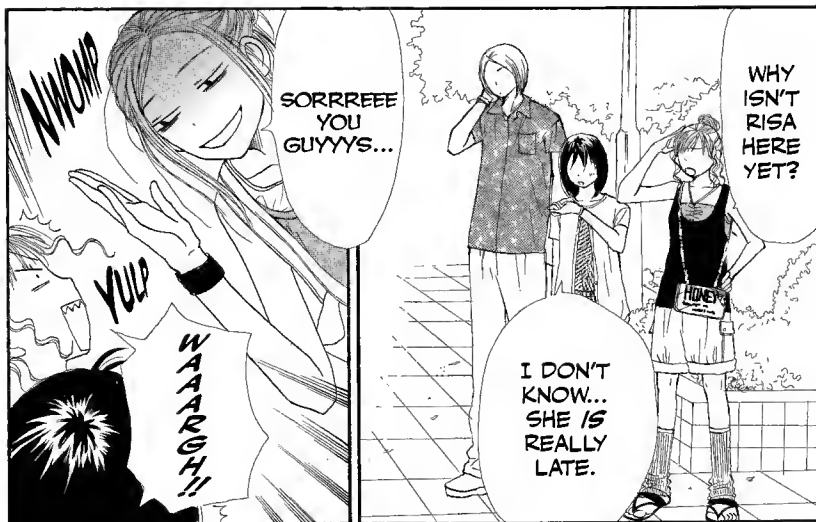
...IS TO  
LET HIM  
KNOW JUST  
HOW MUCH  
I CARE  
ABOUT HIM.

...THE  
BEST  
I CAN  
DO...

BUT FOR  
THE TIME  
BEING...



W A R G H !  
I  
MESSED  
UP.

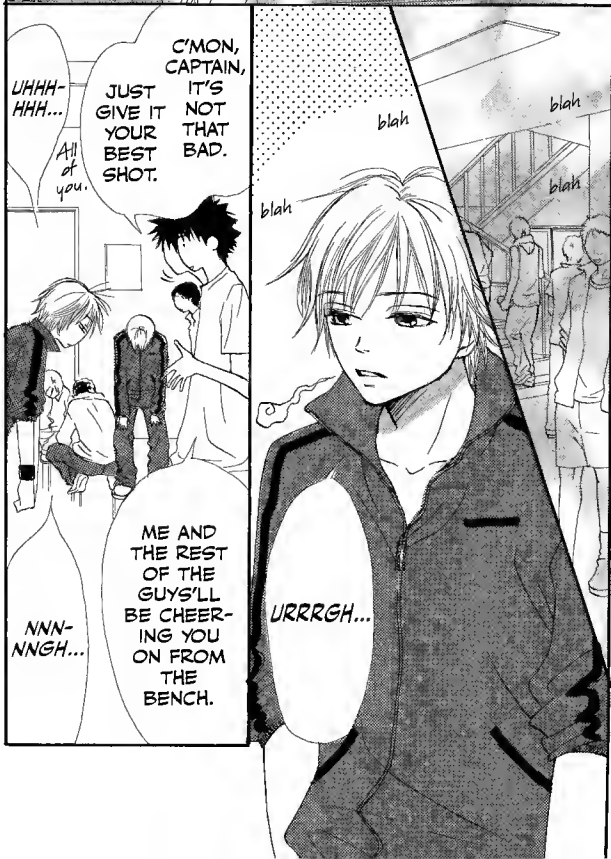
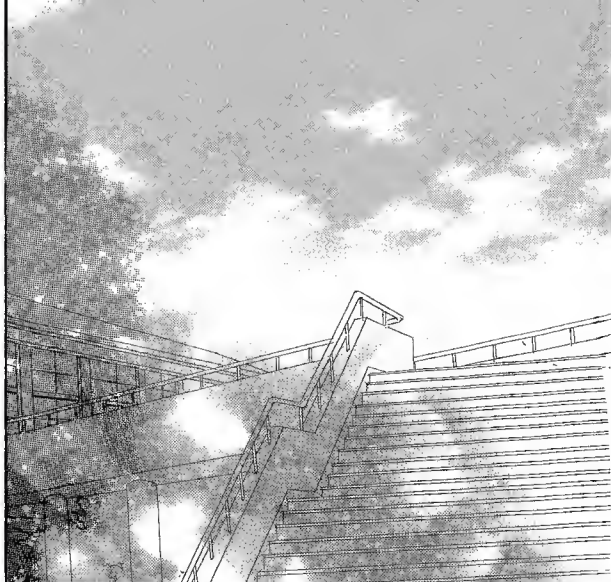


There's a karaoke scene in the Drama CD, so they actually got someone to write us an Umibōzu song. It came out so good and so professional I almost felt kinda bad.

You only hear a little part of it on the Drama CD, but they recorded the whole thing, with Risa and Ôtani singing.

Actually, (the Japanese version) of the Volume 7 manga had a limited edition that came with an Umibōzu CD that had the whole song on it. Oh my...

So anyway, I had to come up with the lyrics for it. It's a rap song. Which means you have to rhyme it. In other words, you have to come up with a whole bunch of puns and stuff. I tell you, the rappers of the world are really something! It's so hard! I was sitting there holding my head in my hands when Fu-kun, who sometimes helps me out with my manga, came along. He wrote most of the lyrics. I am so grateful!! Thank you so much!!



LET'S  
HAVE A  
GOOD  
GAME!!

YOU'LL BE  
PLAYING  
US THE  
FIRST  
ROUND!!

Z  
W  
O  
O  
M

HEY  
THERE!  
ARE YOU  
ÔTANI,  
THE TEAM  
CAPTAIN?

WE'RE  
THE  
ÔTANI  
SQUAD!!

HI, YOU  
GUYS!!





WHAAT?

ISN'T YOUR GAME GONNA START SOON?

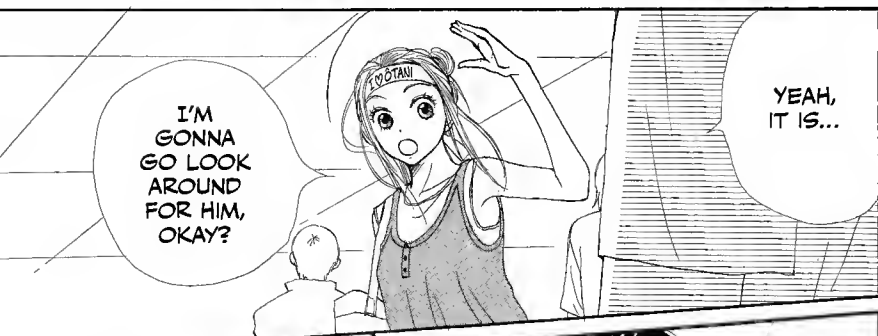
THE TEAM WE'RE PLAYING CAME OVER TO SAY HI, AND WHEN HE SAW HOW TALL THEY ALL WERE HE WENT PALE AND TOTTERED OFF SOMEWHERE.



GLANCE

HEYYY! THANKS FOR COMING.

HUH? WHERE'S ÔTANI?



I'M GONNA GO LOOK AROUND FOR HIM, OKAY?

YEAH, IT IS...



HEH, HEH! YAY!

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, DARLING!!

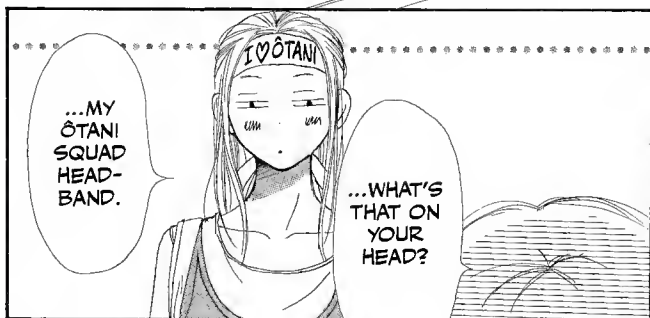


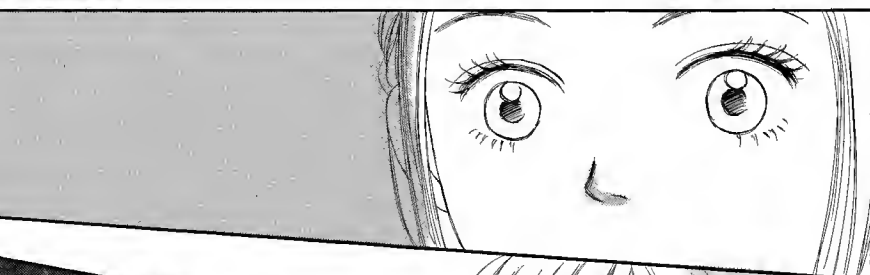
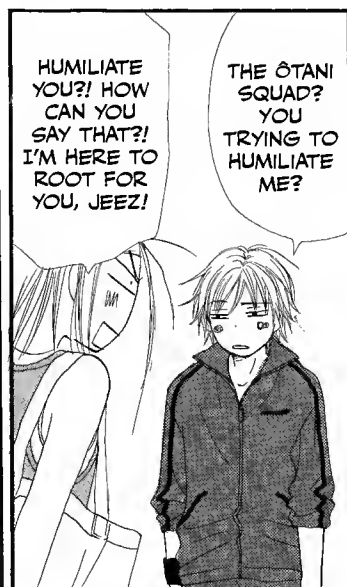
LOOK, SWEETIE. I HAD TO JOIN THE ÔTANI SQUAD...

HEY, NO BIGGIE. I'M JUST ON THE BENCH ANYWAY. GO AHEAD AND ROOT FOR ÔTANI.



THAT IDIOT... WHERE DID HE GO...?









**KA-  
POW**

**YOU  
MEAT-  
HEAD!!**

'CUZ IF ALL  
YOU THINK ABOUT  
IS LOSING,  
YOU'RE **NEVER**  
GONNA WIN, EVEN  
IF YOU **CAN**,  
YOU **STUPID**  
**LOSER!!**

HEY...

**YEAH,  
YOU WILL  
LOSE,  
YOU  
WUSS!!**



YOU'RE  
PATHETIC!  
YOU MAKE  
ME SICK!!

I'M NOT  
ROOTING  
FOR A  
GIVE-UP-  
WITHOUT-  
EVEN-  
TRYING  
WIMP LIKE  
YOU!!

YEAH,  
WHAT-  
EVER!  
I DON'T  
CARE!

WELL,  
JEEZ,  
THOSE  
GUYS'RE  
ONLY THE  
STRONG-  
EST...

Z  
W  
O  
K

I  
CANNOT  
BELIEVE  
HOW  
LAME  
HE'S  
BEING.

FALL  
FOR HIM  
ALL OVER  
AGAIN?  
I DON'T  
THINK SO.

WHAT  
IS HIS  
PROBLEM?

I THOUGHT  
HE WAS  
SUPER-  
COOL,  
THE WAY  
HE WENT  
FOR IT.

PHAP

OR  
GETTING  
YELLED AT  
BY THE  
COACH/  
ALL THE  
TIME.

HE  
NEVER  
LET  
BEING  
SHORT  
STOP  
HIM  
BEFORE.

I MEAN,  
WHO  
CARES IF  
THEY WIN  
OR LOSE  
ANYWAY?

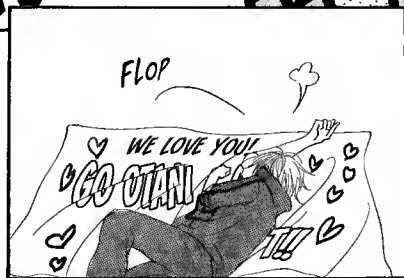
SHW

I WAS ALL  
READY TO  
CHEER HIM  
ON WITH  
EVERYTHING  
I HAD.

WE LOVE YOU!

GO ÔTANI GO!

FIGHT!!





WELL,  
I DON'T  
WANT  
TO STICK  
AROUND  
TO WATCH  
THIS  
GAME!

**EXCUSE  
ME?! YOU  
MAKE ME  
PUT ON THIS  
UNFAITHFUL-  
TO-MY-BOY-  
FRIEND  
HEADBAND,  
AND THEN  
YOU TAKE  
OFF?!**



I WAS  
UP ALL  
NIGHT,  
I'M  
REALLY  
WASTED.

I MEAN  
I'M  
GOING  
HOME.



**WHADDAYA  
MEAN,  
YOU'RE  
GOING  
HOME?!**

Huh?



WHO'RE  
YOU  
CALLING A  
PATHETIC  
LAMEBRAIN  
WIMP?

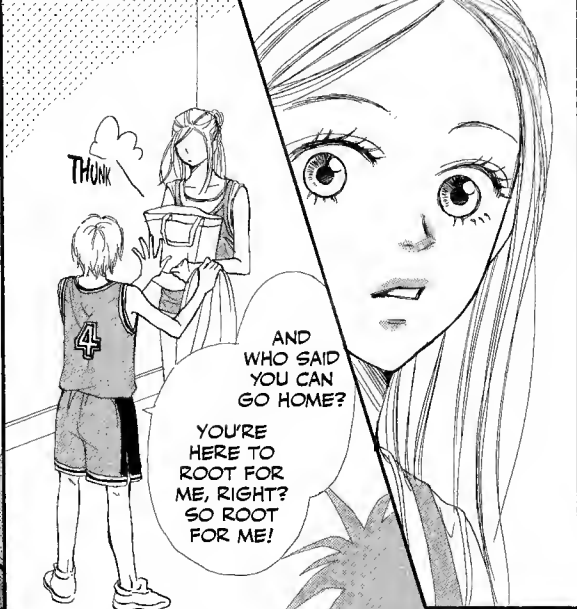
NOT  
WITH  
THAT...  
  
THAT  
**PATHETIC  
LAMEBRAIN  
WIMP**  
SLEEP-  
WALKING  
THROUGH  
IT!





YOU  
KIDDING  
ME? I'M  
GOING  
ALL OUT.

I TOLD  
YOU,  
I'M NOT  
ROOTING  
FOR YOU IF  
YOU'RE SO  
BENT ON  
LOSING.



THUNK

AND  
WHO SAID  
YOU CAN  
GO HOME?

YOU'RE  
HERE TO  
ROOT FOR  
ME, RIGHT?  
SO ROOT  
FOR ME!



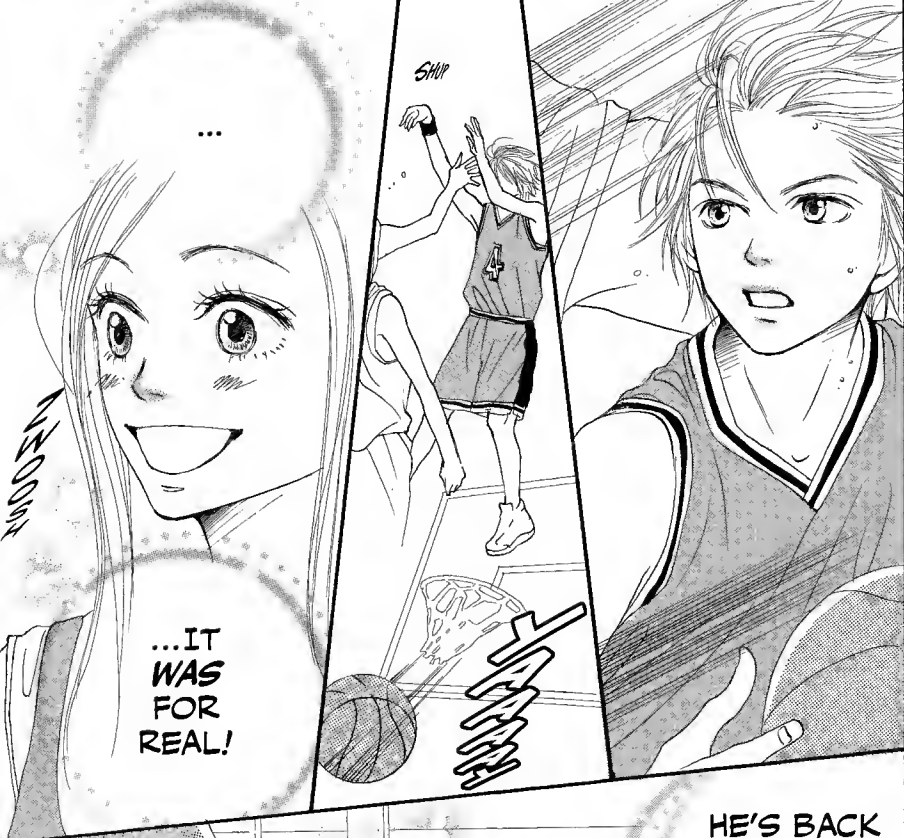
WATCH  
ME,  
GIRL.

I'M GONNA  
MAKE YOU  
FALL FOR ME  
ALL OVER  
AGAIN.



BEEEN A  
WHILE SINCE  
YOU SOCKED  
ME ONE OF  
YOUR MEAT-  
HEAD PUNCHES.  
IT CLEARED  
MY BRAIN.





...IT  
WAS  
FOR  
REAL!

SHUP

HE'S BACK  
TO BEING  
THE ÔTANI  
I LOVE  
SO MUCH.

GO  
FOR IT,  
ÔTANI!!  
RAH  
RAH  
RAH!

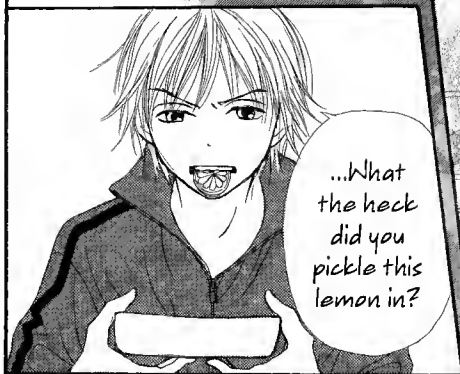
WE LOVE YOU!  
GO ÔTANI!  
FIGHT!

YAY,  
ÔTANI!!  
YOU  
TOTALLY  
ROCK!





THIS  
IS THE  
ÔTANI  
I'M NUTS  
ABOUT.



...What  
the heck  
did you  
pickle this  
lemon in?



WE  
DIDN'T  
HAVE ANY  
HONEY  
IN THE  
HOUSE,  
SO...

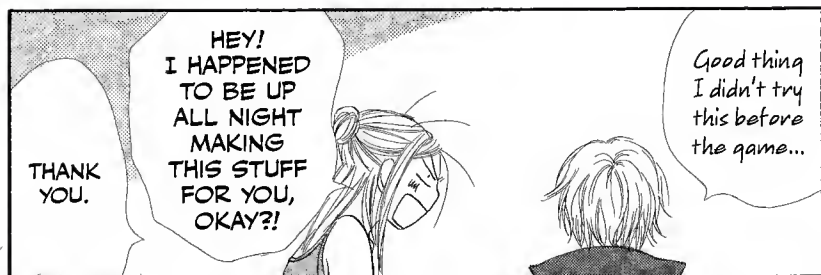
COOKING  
SHERRY?!

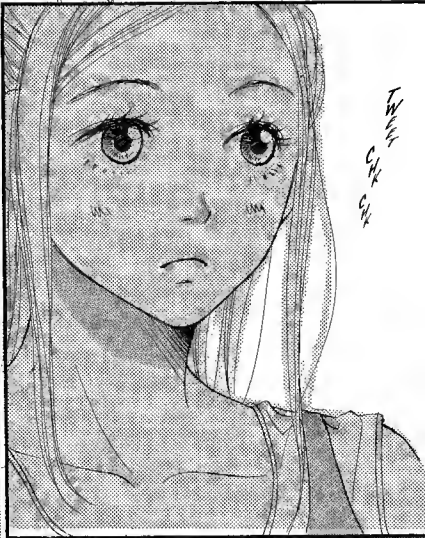
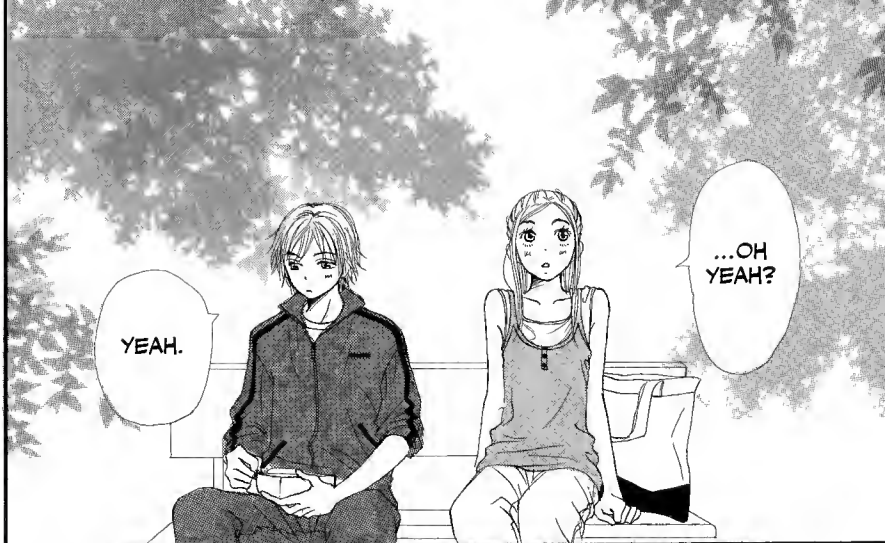
...COOK-  
ING  
SHERRY.

I figured  
cooking  
sherry  
might  
work,  
but it's  
sweet.

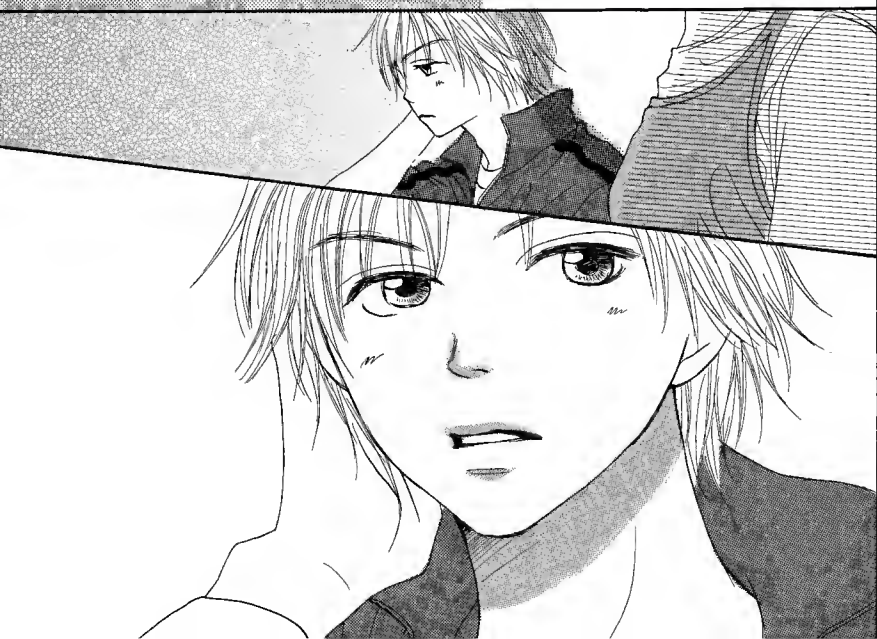




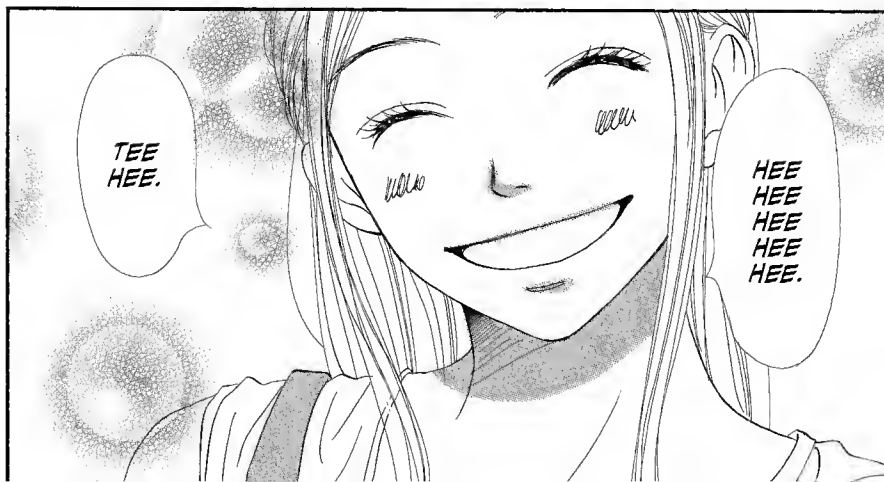
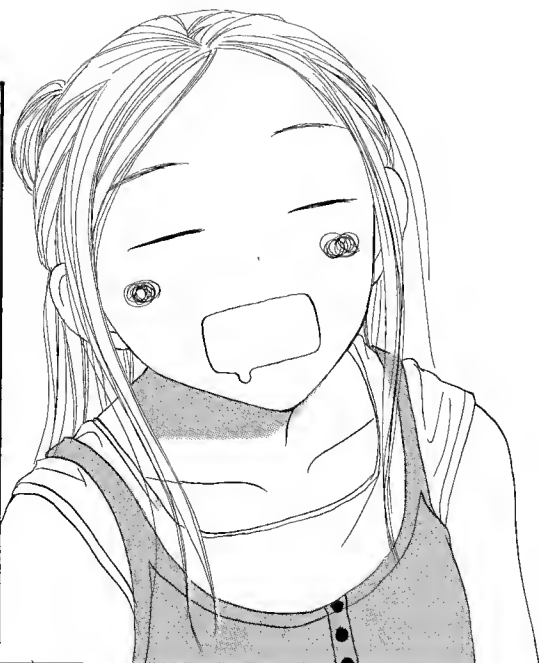
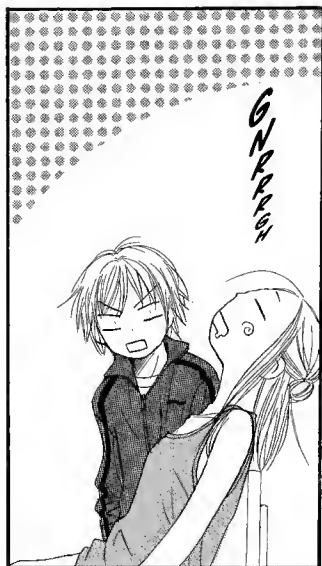




I JUST  
NEED YOU  
TO BE  
AROUND  
ME ALL  
THE TIME.











HEY,  
ÔTANI...



HEE  
HEE  
HEE...

HOW  
DO YOU  
FEEL  
ABOUT  
ME?

I'M  
CRAZY  
ABOUT  
YOU, I  
REALLY  
AM.



IT'S  
OKAY,  
NOBU-  
CHAN.

That  
stupid  
Risa!  
I don't  
believe—  
nnuugh

RUSTLE



...FINE.  
WHATEVER.





OH,  
WOW,  
GEE...

MY  
GOSH...  
I JUST  
HAD THE  
MOST  
WONDER-  
FUL  
DREAM...

I need  
you to be  
around  
me all  
the time.



## CHAPTER 27

I AM SOOOOOO HAPPY...

OKAY,  
SO...

HEH  
HEH.

THIS IS  
GOING  
TO BE  
MY BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER!!

MY LAST  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
SUMMER  
VACATION...

IT'S  
SUMMER  
!!

SUMMER  
VACATION  
STARTS  
TOMORROW,  
BUT WE'LL BE  
EXPECTING  
THIRD-YEAR  
STUDENTS  
TO...

Heh  
heh  
heh  
heh  
heh.

...AND IT LOOKS  
LIKE FINALLY  
THINGS ARE  
COMING UP  
ROSES IN THE  
ROMANCE  
DEPARTMENT,  
SO...

YOU GUYS'VE  
TOTALLY  
FORGOTTEN  
THAT YOU HAVE  
EXIT EXAMS  
NEXT MARCH,  
HAVEN'T YOU?

KOIZUMI-  
SAN!

Wake up!





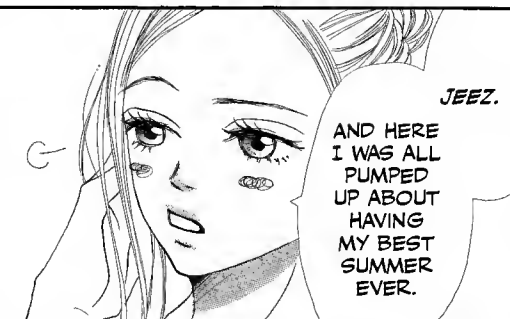
YOU  
WANNA  
GO TO  
COLLEGE,  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
PARTYING  
THIS  
SUMMER.

DARN IT.  
I **HAD**  
TOTALLY  
FORGOTTEN  
THE EXIT  
EXAMS.

AS FOR  
THE REST  
OF YOU, IT'S  
VOLUNTARY  
BUT  
**RECOM-  
MENDED.**

WELL, YOU DO.  
SO FOR ALL OF  
YOU CLOWNS  
WHOSE NAMES I  
JUST READ OUT,  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE IS  
**MANDATORY,**  
OKAY?

Remedial Summer Courses



JEEZ.

AND HERE  
I WAS ALL  
PUMPED  
UP ABOUT  
HAVING  
MY BEST  
SUMMER  
EVER.



WAAAAAGH!  
WHY'RE  
YOU  
ALWAYS  
YELLING  
AT ME  
LATELY?

BECAUSE  
YOU DRIVE  
ME **NUTS**,  
THE WAY YOU  
FALL ASLEEP  
AND DON'T  
HEAR THINGS  
YOU NEED  
TO HEAR!!

YOU'D  
**ALREADY** BE  
HAVING YOUR  
BEST SUMMER  
EVER IF YOU  
WEREN'T  
ALWAYS FALLING  
**ASLEEP** AT THE  
WRONG TIME,  
YOU BIG  
**NITWIT!!**



BZZZZ

WELL, THESE  
TWO HAVE  
BEEN HAVING  
HOT DATES AT  
THE LIBRARY  
EVERY DAY  
AFTER  
SCHOOL FOR  
MONTHS.

SO ALL OF  
US HAVE  
TO GO TO  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL,  
EXCEPT FOR  
CHIHARU AND  
SUZUKI?  
THAT IS SO  
UNFAIR.

TH-THOSE  
WEREN'T  
DATES, WE  
WERE  
STUDY-  
ING...

UH, BUT  
WE'LL  
GO TO  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL  
TOO!



...OH,  
YEAH.

OH  
WELL.  
AT  
LEAST...

AND HERE I  
WAS THINKING,  
WITH NO  
BASKETBALL  
PRACTICE THIS  
SUMMER, I  
COULD HAVE  
NONSTOP  
FUN.

WELL,  
WE DID  
QUIT AFTER  
THE FIRST  
SEMESTER  
SO WE'D  
HAVE MORE  
TIME TO  
STUDY,  
REMEMBER?

*So what can  
you do?*

I  
swear,  
Risa,  
you  
are so  
lame!



OH, UH...  
YES,  
MA'AM!

ARE YOU  
EVEN  
LISTEN-  
ING TO  
ME?!

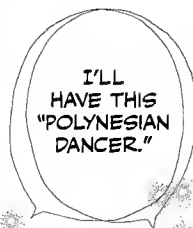
...THIS WAY I  
CAN SEE ÔTANI  
ALL SUMMER  
WITHOUT  
COMING UP  
WITH REASONS  
FOR GETTING  
TOGETHER.

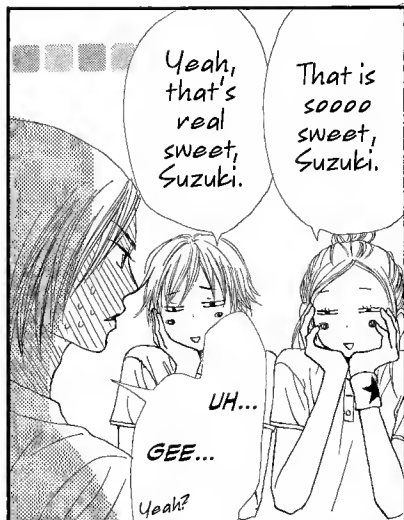
YEAH,  
LET'S...

WANNA  
COOL  
OFF  
SOME-  
PLACE?

MY  
GOD,  
IT IS  
SOOO  
HOT!







Yeah,  
that's  
real  
sweet,  
Suzuki.

That is  
soooo  
sweet,  
Suzuki.

UH...

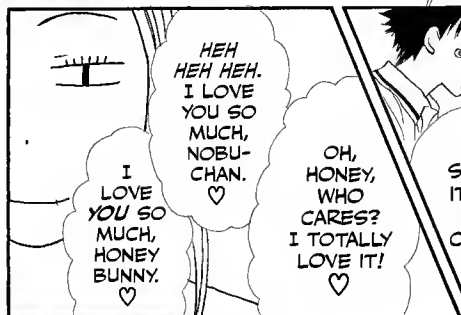
GEE...

Yeah?

IT WAS  
YOUR BIRTH-  
DAY LAST  
MONTH! DID  
HE GIVE  
THAT TO YOU  
FOR YOUR  
BIRTHDAY?!

BETCHA  
IT'S A  
PRESENT  
FROM  
SUZUKI,  
ISN'T IT?!

OH...  
UMM...  
YEAH.



HEH  
HEH HEH.  
I LOVE  
YOU SO  
MUCH,  
NOBU-  
CHAN. ♡

I  
LOVE  
YOU SO  
MUCH,  
HONEY  
BUNNY. ♡

OH,  
HONEY,  
WHO  
CARES?  
I TOTALLY  
LOVE IT! ♡

SORRY  
IT WAS  
SO CHEAP.

YUP!  
HE GOT  
ME THIS  
CUTE  
BAG. ♡

HEY, YOUR  
BIRTHDAY  
WAS A MONTH  
BEFORE  
CHIHARU'S,  
NOBU. DID  
NAKAO GET  
YOU SOME-  
THING?

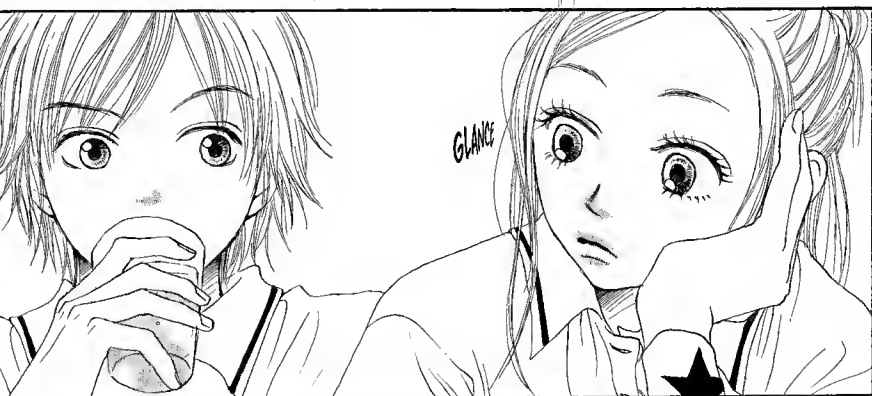
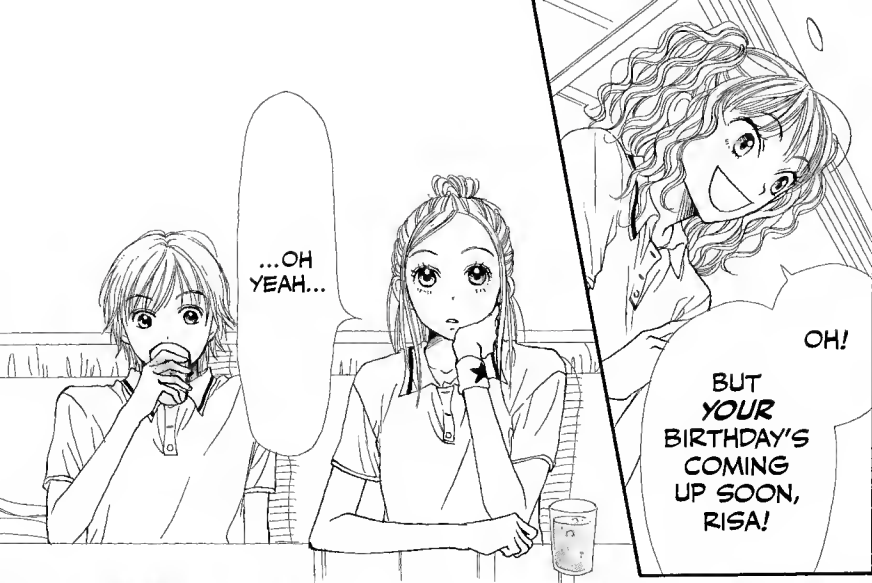


...THAT'S  
NICE.

LUCKY  
DUCKIES.  
LOOK  
AT HOW  
LOVEY-  
DOVEY  
THEY  
ALL ARE.

WELL,  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
EXPECT?  
THEY'RE  
GOING  
OUT,  
AFTER  
ALL.





OF  
COURSE  
HE WILL.

**WAAAA?**

**WHAT?!**

YOU WILL,  
OF COURSE,  
BE GETTING  
RISA A  
PRESENT FOR  
HER BIRTHDAY,  
WON'T YOU,  
OTANI?

WHY'RE  
YOU ALL  
LOOKING  
AT ME  
LIKE  
THAT?!

**DUDES!!**

OMIGOSH,  
THAT  
TOTALLY  
SOUNDS  
LIKE A  
MARRIAGE  
PROPOSAL!

HUH?

AFTER  
ALL, HE  
CAN'T LIVE  
WITHOUT  
HER, FROM  
WHAT I  
HEARD.

WELL,  
I DIDN'T  
SAY I CAN'T  
LIVE WITH-  
OUT HER,  
AND YOU  
KNOW IT!!

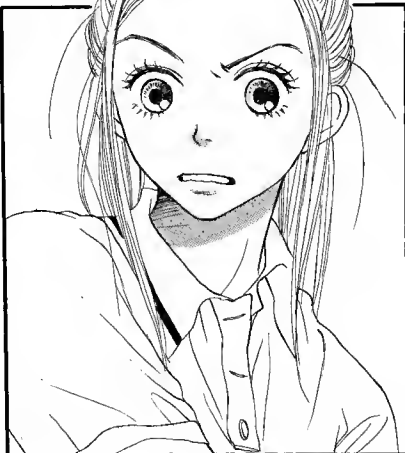
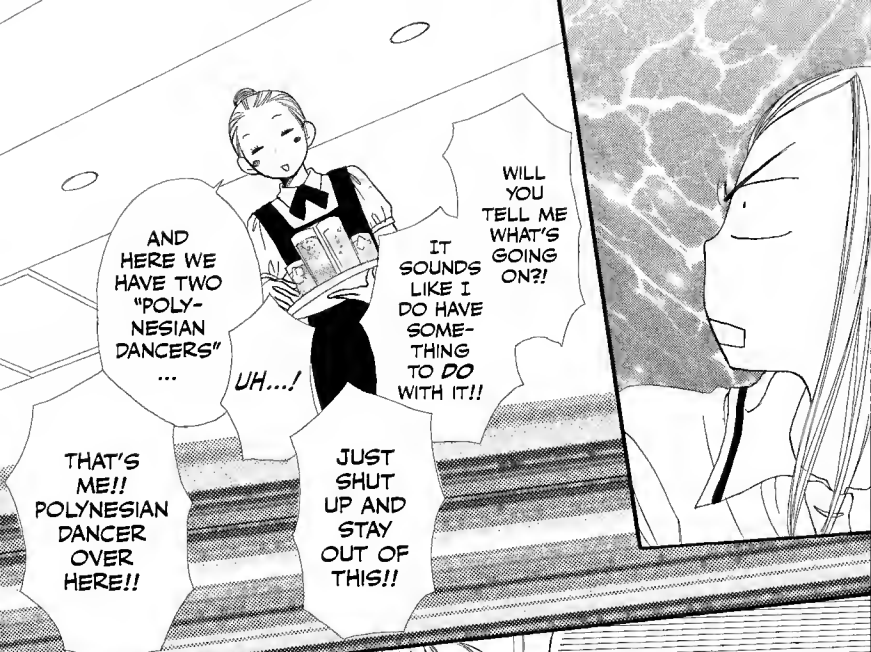
**SHUT UP!  
YOU GOT  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH  
THIS!!**

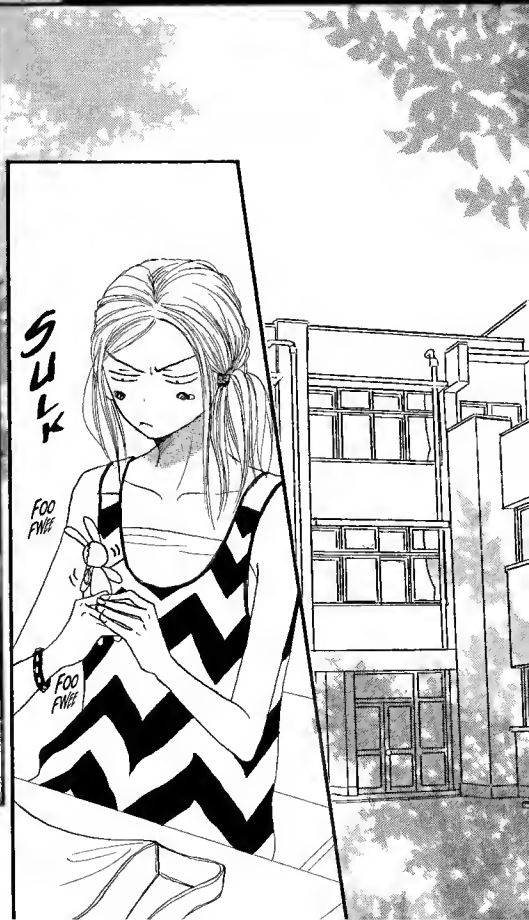
WHAT'S  
THIS  
ALL  
ABOUT?

**YOU DON'T  
EAVESDROP  
ON PEOPLE'S  
PRIVATE  
CONVERSA-**

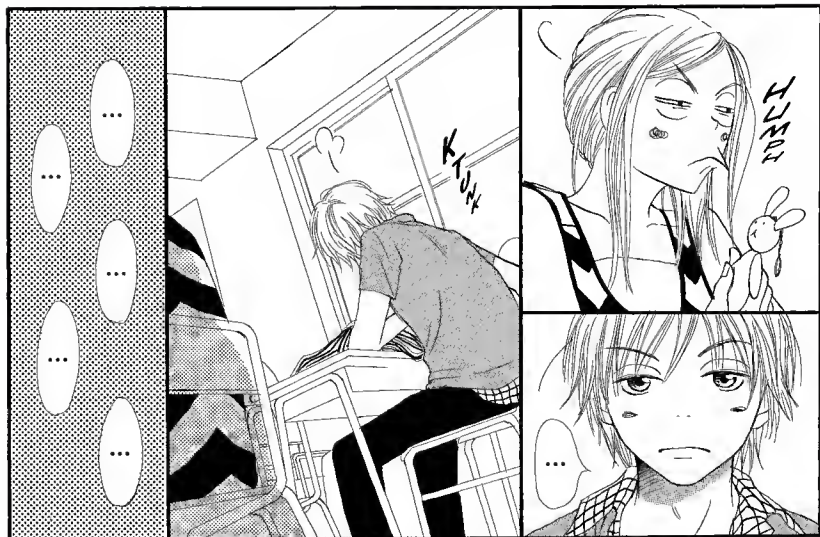
WELL,  
WE DID!  
AND WE  
HEARD  
YOU!

**DUDES  
WHAT?**











YOU  
KNOW,  
HERE I'M  
TRYING TO  
BE NICE,  
AND YOU...

WHAT  
I *WANT*  
IS TO  
FIND OUT  
WHAT ALL  
THAT WAS  
*ABOUT*  
YESTERDAY.



URGH...



GRRR

...I DON'T  
WANT  
ANYTHING  
FOR MY  
BIRTHDAY.

FOO  
PIE



I TOLD  
YOU!!  
NOTHING!!

NO,  
YOU TELL  
ME WHAT  
YOU WANT  
FOR YOUR  
BIRTHDAY,  
'CUZ I  
ASKED YOU  
FIRST!!

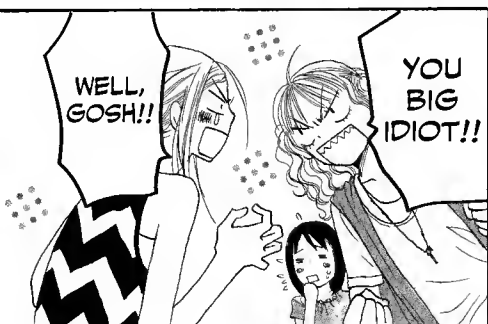
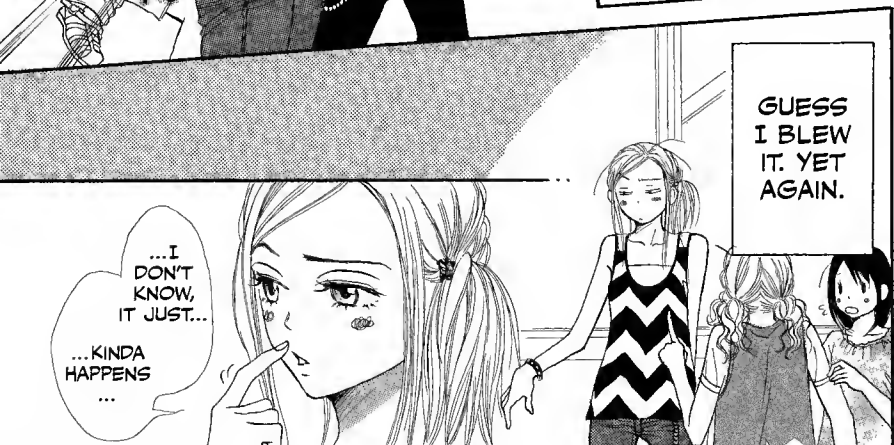
YOU SURE?!!  
'CUZ I SURE  
DON'T WANT  
TO GET  
BLAMED FOR  
NOT GETTING  
YOU A BIRTH-  
DAY PRESENT  
WHEN YOU  
SAID YOU  
DIDN'T WANT  
ANYTHING!!



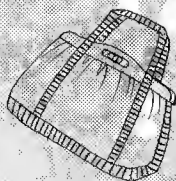
LIKE  
I SAID,  
JUST  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
IT!!

HOW'M I  
GOING TO  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
IT WHEN  
EVERY-  
ONE'S  
IN ON IT  
EXCEPT  
ME?!

JUST  
TELL  
ME  
WHAT  
YOU  
WERE  
TALKING  
ABOUT!!

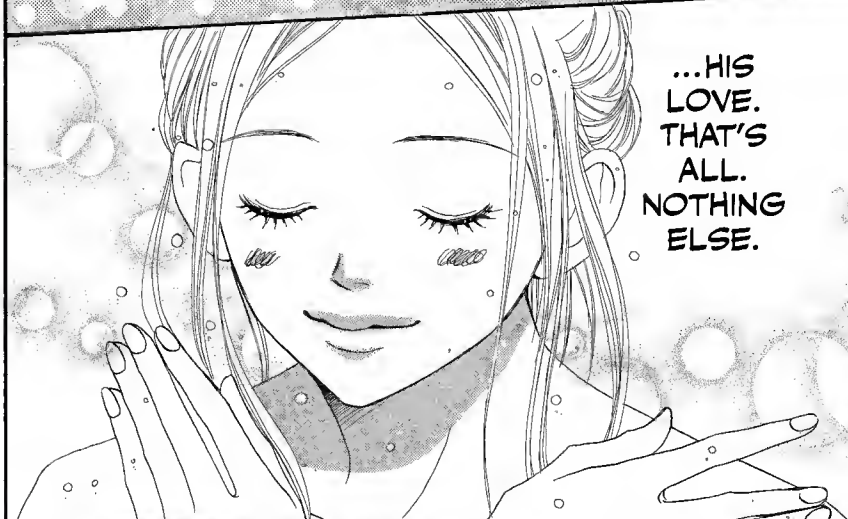


ALL I  
WANT  
FROM  
ÔTANI  
IS...



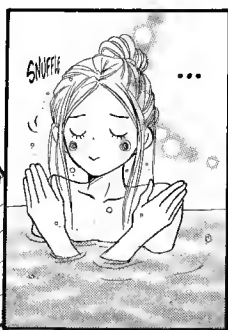
I DON'T  
WANT A  
RING OR  
A BAG  
OR ANY-  
THING  
FOR MY  
BIRTHDAY.

WELL,  
GOSH...  
I REALLY  
MEANT IT.



...HIS  
LOVE.  
THAT'S  
ALL.  
NOTHING  
ELSE.

**HYAAAAGH-  
CHOOOOMPH!!**







So in addition to Fu-kun, my ghostwriter for the "Fish in Hell" lyrics, I have all kinds of people come over to my house to help me out right before my manga deadlines, when I'm dying. Such as, my friend Nana's co-worker. And that co-worker's friend. And that co-worker's friend's co-worker. Like I said, all kinds of people.

And even though none of them even draws pictures usually, much less manga, they've all learned how to paste screen tone and work really hard to help me out... So sweet...

Plus they're all young, so they're really fun and full of energy. Which means that old lady Aya not only gets a ton of help meeting her deadline, she gets to observe young people in action and kill two birds with one stone!

Thank you so much, you guys. And I'm counting on you for future installments too.

I wish I could meet you once in a while when I'm poppy.

I mean, every time you see me I'm at death's door... I feel so bad...

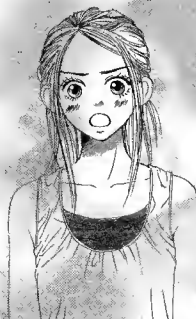
COME  
TO  
THINK  
OF IT...

ZZZZZZ

I THINK  
IT'S TIME  
TO GET  
OUT...

YUCK.

I LOVE  
YOU.  
I REALLY  
DO.



...THE FIRST  
TIME I TOLD  
OTANI I  
LOVED HIM  
WAS ON MY  
BIRTHDAY  
LAST YEAR.



I'M  
GONNA  
QUIT  
BEING IN  
LOVE WITH  
YOU, SO  
THERE!!

BUT  
WOW,  
IT'S  
BEEN A  
WHOLE  
YEAR.

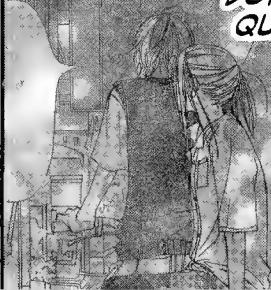
HE JUST  
TOTALLY  
LAUGHED  
IT OFF  
THAT  
TIME.

WELL.



HEYYY,  
COME  
ON.  
WHAT'RE  
FRIENDS  
FOR?

DON'T  
QUIT.





A LOT  
SURE HAS  
HAPPENED  
OVER THE  
PAST YEAR.



WONDER  
IF ALL  
THE HARD  
WORK I  
PUT INTO  
THIS IS  
FINALLY  
PAYING  
OFF.

SQUEAK SQUEAK  
Isn't  
this the  
cutest?

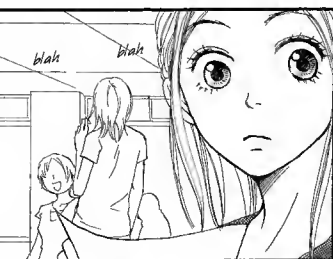
Ooh,  
I like  
this  
one.



IF YOU'RE  
GETTING HER  
SOMETHING,  
JUST GET IT  
AND LET'S  
GO BECAUSE  
WE'RE THE ONLY  
GUYS IN THE  
WHOLE STORE,  
YOU KNOW?

...  
I THINK  
SHE'LL  
LOVE ANY-  
THING YOU  
GET HER,  
SERIOUSLY.

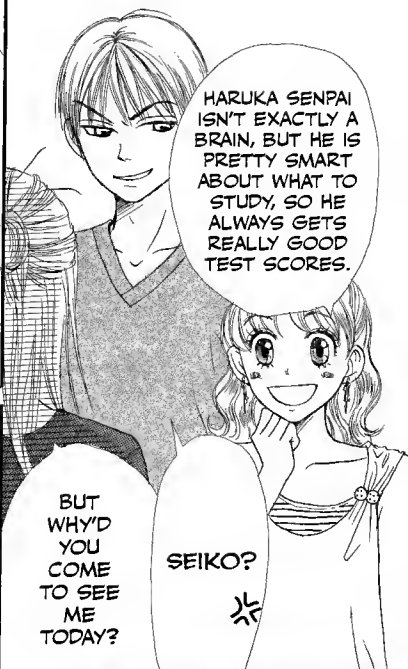
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA





OH  
YEAH.

HERE,  
RISA.



HARUKA SENPAI  
ISN'T EXACTLY A  
BRAIN, BUT HE IS  
PRETTY SMART  
ABOUT WHAT TO  
STUDY, SO HE  
ALWAYS GETS  
REALLY GOOD  
TEST SCORES.

BUT  
WHY'D  
YOU  
COME  
TO SEE  
ME  
TODAY?

SEIKO?



RISA!!!

OH! HI,  
ÔTANI  
SENPAI!



I KNOW,  
HUH?  
MAKES  
YOU FALL  
IN LOVE  
WITH ME,  
DOESN'T  
IT?

NO. THAT  
WOULD  
NEVER  
HAPPEN.

Y-YOU  
GUYS...  
ARE SO,  
SO, SO  
SWEEEEET  
...

MURF

YUP! WE'RE  
GOING TO  
BAKE YOU A  
BEAUTIFUL  
CAKE AND  
MAKE ALL  
KINDS OF  
DELICIOUS  
FOOD TOO!

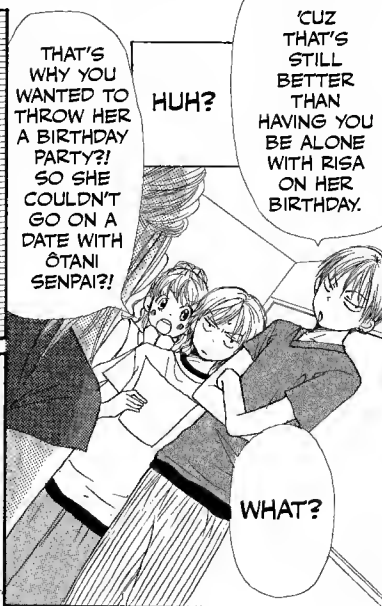
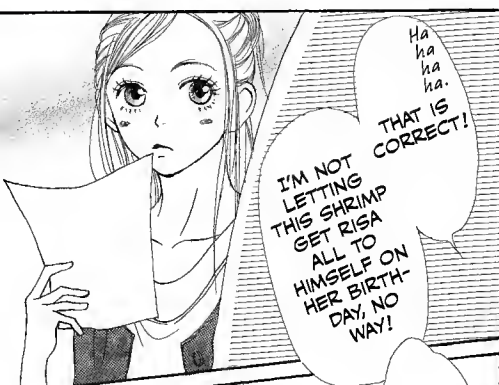
A  
BIRTHDAY  
PARTY?  
FOR ME?



LET US  
CELEBRATE  
YOUR  
BIRTHDAY  
WITH YOU,  
SENPAI!







SO I  
GUESS  
NAKAO AND  
NOBU AND  
EVERYBODY  
ELSE  
ALL SAID  
THEY'RE  
GOING.

TO  
THAT  
PARTY.

OH,  
YEAH?

...

MIGHTY  
SAID HE'S  
GOING TO  
BE THERE  
TOO.

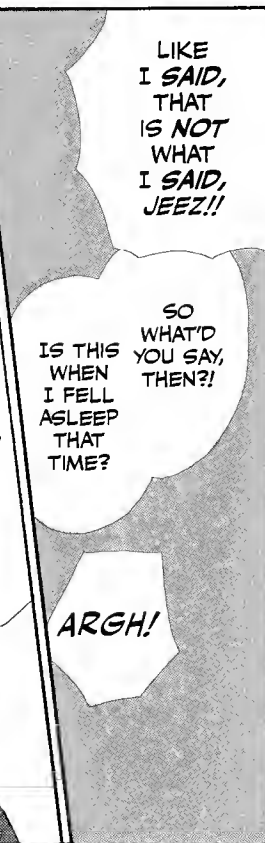
WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?  
ARE YOU  
COMING?

WELL,  
YOU DON'T  
WANT ME  
TO CELE-  
BRATE YOUR  
BIRTHDAY,  
RIGHT?

HEH?

YOU SAID  
YOU DIDN'T  
WANT ME  
TO GIVE  
YOU A  
PRESENT.

WHAT?





...WHAT'S  
**HIS**  
PROBLEM?



OR  
EVEN  
THAT  
HE'D GET  
ME A  
BIRTHDAY  
PRESENT.



...I WAS  
EXPECTING  
TO SPEND  
MY BIRTHDAY  
ALONE WITH  
HIM ON A  
DATE OR  
SOMETHING.



IT'S  
NOT  
LIKE...



I MEAN,  
WE  
AREN'T  
EVEN  
GOING  
OUT.



...SO I  
GUESS  
HE  
REALLY  
ISN'T  
COMING  
AFTER  
ALL.

WHO  
CARES  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
STUPID  
PARTY!!

W  
H  
A  
T  
?!

WELL,  
HE  
MUST'VE  
GONE  
HOME  
THEN.

NO.

...HE  
ISN'T  
HERE?

WHERE'S  
ÔTANI?

WE ALL  
ASSUMED  
HE WAS  
COMING  
WITH YOU.

PLEASE  
BE  
SEATED,  
MADEMOI-  
SELLE.

YOU  
ARE THE  
GUEST OF  
HONOR  
AT THIS  
FEAST.

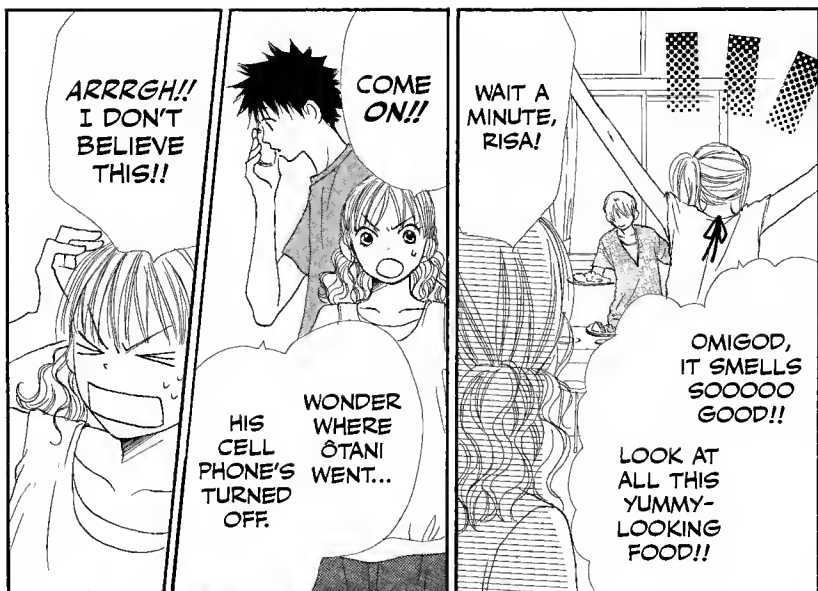
Happy  
Birthday

Here's  
your  
cake!

THAT'S  
RIGHT, RISA!  
LET'S EAT,  
OR THE  
FOOD WILL  
GET COLD!

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY,  
RISA.

MIGHTY...  
THANK  
YOU...





FIREWORKS,  
PROBABLY.

OH.

...WHAT  
WAS  
THAT? I  
THOUGHT  
I HEARD  
SOME-  
THING  
OUTSIDE.

**BOOM**



GLAD  
YOU  
ENJOYED  
IT, RISA.

I AM IN  
HEAVEN!

OMIGOD,  
YOU  
GUYS,  
THAT  
WAS SO  
GOOD!

I DON'T  
NEED ÔTANI  
TO CELE-  
BRATE MY  
BIRTHDAY.  
I HAVE ALL  
MY FRIENDS.

Happy  
Birthday Risa



WE  
MIGHT  
GET A  
GOOD  
VIEW OF  
THEM UP  
ON THE  
ROOF.

OOH,  
REALLY?  
I LOVE  
FIRE-  
WORKS!

THAT'S  
RIGHT!  
THERE'S A  
BIG FIRE-  
WORKS  
FESTIVAL  
TODAY!



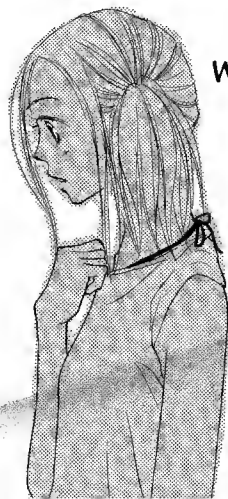
WARGH!

HUH?

COME  
ON,  
RISA,  
LET'S  
GO!

UP ON  
THE  
ROOF...

FIRE-  
WORKS  
...





OH, HOW  
PRETTY  
!!

BOOM

BOOM

YOU  
GET A  
GREAT  
VIEW UP  
HERE!

WOW  
WOW  
WOW!

I THOUGHT  
SEEING THESE  
FIREWORKS  
MIGHT CHEER  
YOU UP!

...

WOW. IT  
REALLY IS  
BEAUTI-  
FUL, HUH?



...WHO  
AM I  
KIDDING?

I **DO**  
NEED  
ÔTANI  
TO BE  
HERE.

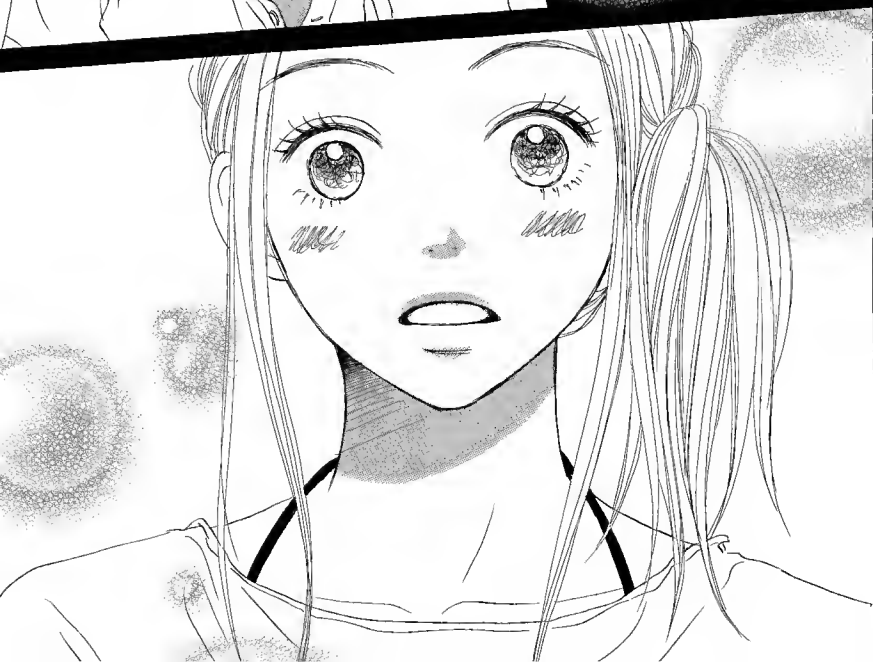
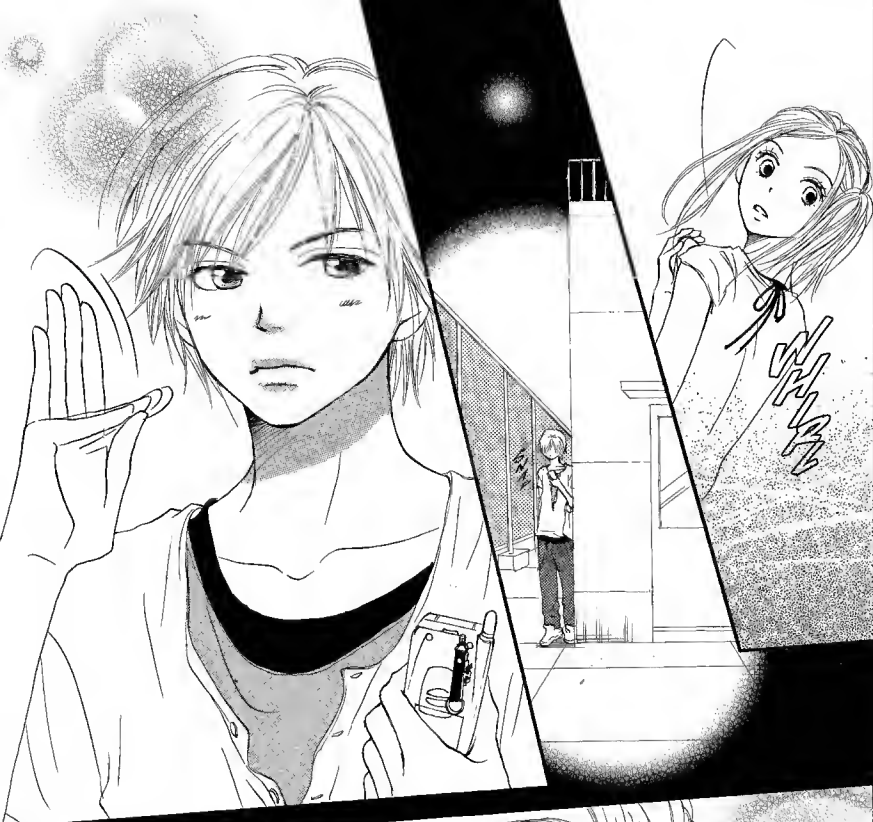


IF HE  
ISN'T  
AROUND  
...

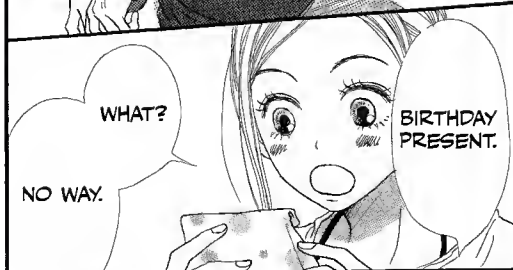


...THE  
FIREWORKS  
DON'T  
EVEN LOOK  
BEAUTIFUL  
TO ME.  
SEEING THEM  
DOESN'T  
CHEER ME  
UP AT ALL.

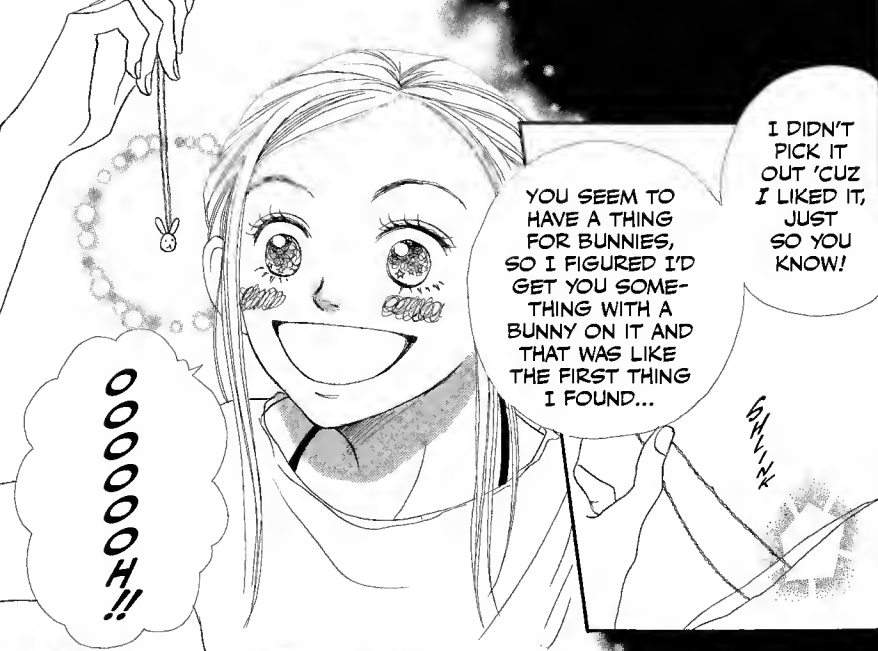












OOOOOH!!

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A THING FOR BUNNIES, SO I FIGURED I'D GET YOU SOMETHING WITH A BUNNY ON IT AND THAT WAS LIKE THE FIRST THING I FOUND...

I DIDN'T PICK IT OUT 'CUZ I LIKED IT, JUST SO YOU KNOW!

SHIN



Will you lower your voice?! You want everyone to see us?!

WHAA

THIS IS SOOO CUUTE!!



DO IT LATER, AFTER THE BIG ONES'RE OVER! NOW WILL YOU JUST PUT THAT THING AWAY?!

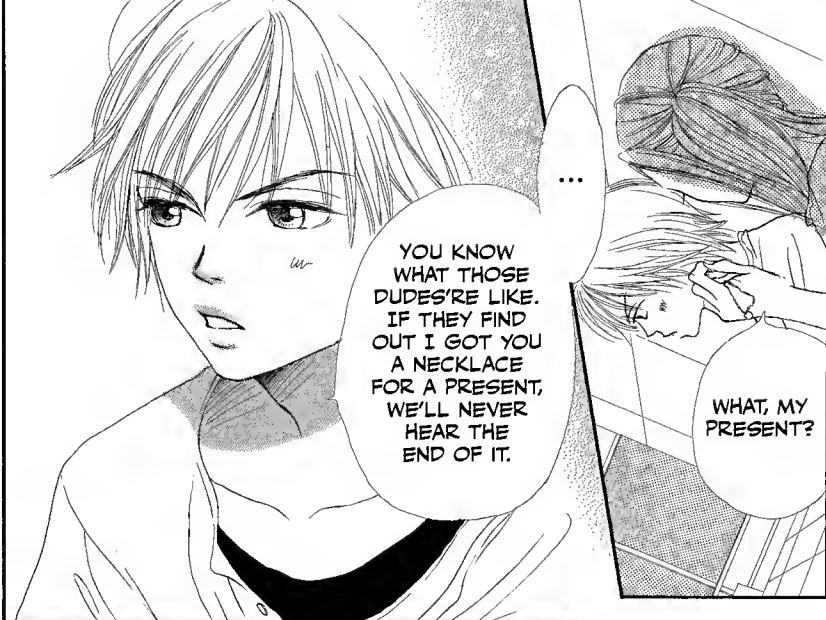
COOL! SO LET'S CALL EVERYBODY OVER AND...

OUCH...

WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

BOUGHT 'EM ON THE WAY OVER.

FIREWORKS.



...  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT THOSE  
DUDES'RE LIKE.  
IF THEY FIND  
OUT I GOT YOU  
A NECKLACE  
FOR A PRESENT,  
WE'LL NEVER  
HEAR THE  
END OF IT.

WHAT, MY  
PRESENT?

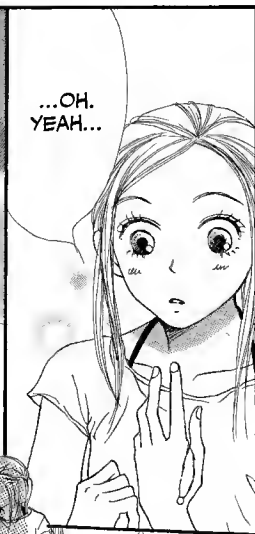


WHERE'D  
YOU  
GET IT?

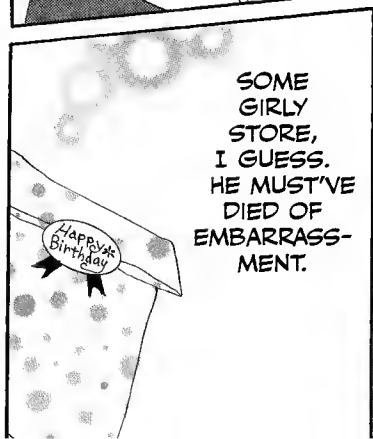
WHO  
CARES  
WHERE I  
GOT IT?



...IS  
THIS WHY  
YOU WERE  
LATE? 'CUZ  
YOU WENT  
TO GET ME  
THIS?



...OH.  
YEAH...



SOME  
GIRLY  
STORE,  
I GUESS.  
HE MUST'VE  
DIED OF  
EMBARRASS-  
MENT.





THANK  
YOU.

I'M  
SUPER  
STOKED!



I WAS  
STARTING  
TO THINK  
YOU  
WEREN'T  
GONNA  
COME.

OH...

MM.

Ha  
ha  
ha  
ha  
ha.

Wow,  
that  
one was  
amazing!

I  
LOVE  
IT!

...YOU  
LIKE  
IT?





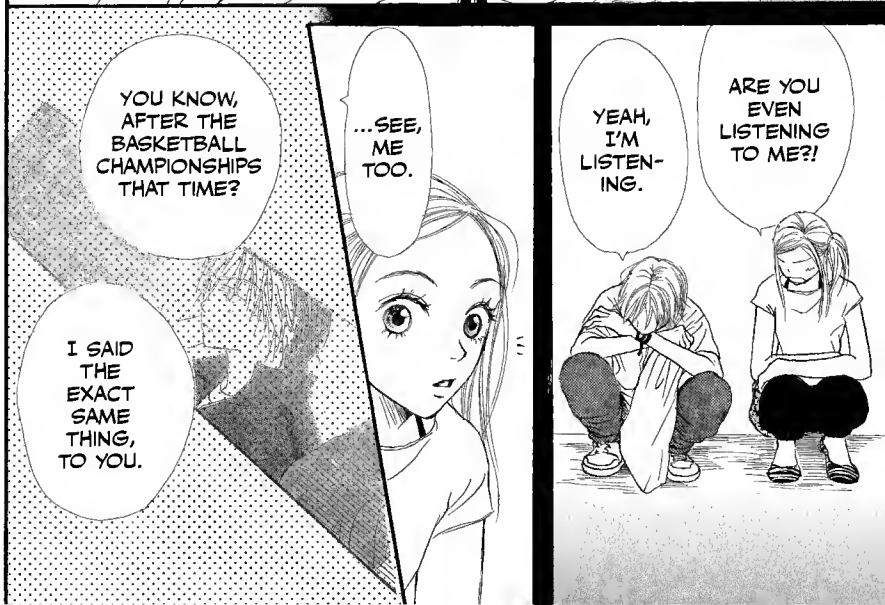
AND I WAS  
BUMMED,  
'CUZ... WELL,  
I WAS THINKING  
HOW I NEED  
YOU TO BE  
AROUND, YOU  
KNOW?

LIKE,  
NOTHING'S  
REALLY FUN  
WITHOUT  
YOU THERE.



...MM.

...



YOU KNOW,  
AFTER THE  
BASKETBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
THAT TIME?

I SAID  
THE  
EXACT  
SAME  
THING,  
TO YOU.

...SEE,  
ME  
TOO.

YEAH,  
I'M  
LISTEN-  
ING.

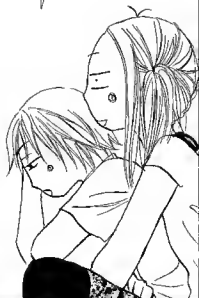
ARE YOU  
EVEN  
LISTENING  
TO ME?!



...OH  
MY  
GOD.

I JUST  
NEED YOU  
TO BE  
AROUND  
ME ALL  
THE TIME.

EXCEPT  
YOU WERE  
ZONKED  
OUT WITH  
YOUR MOUTH  
WIDE OPEN  
AND DIDN'T  
HEAR IT.

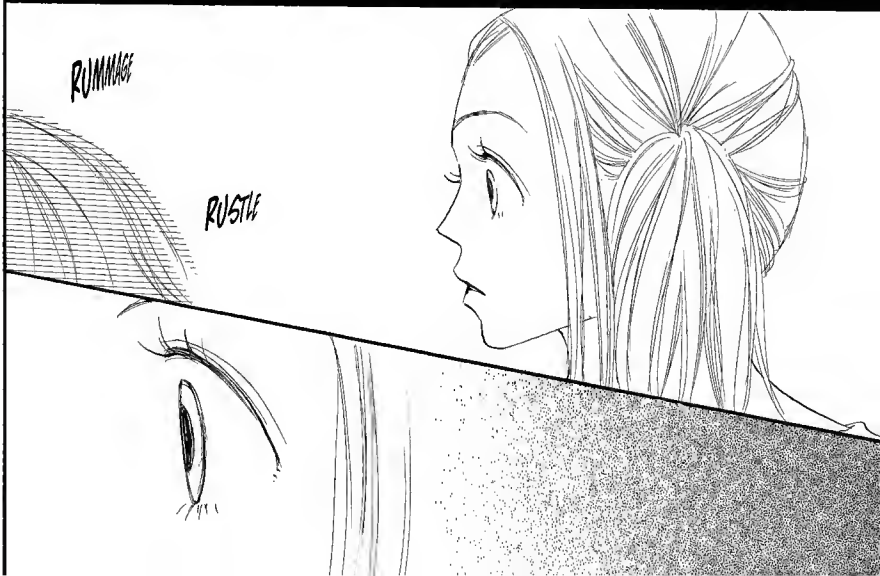
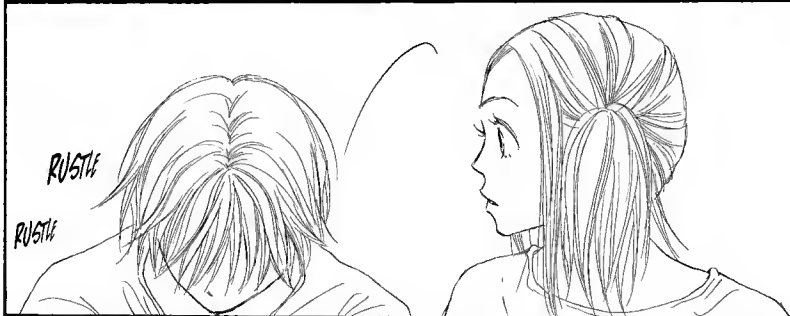
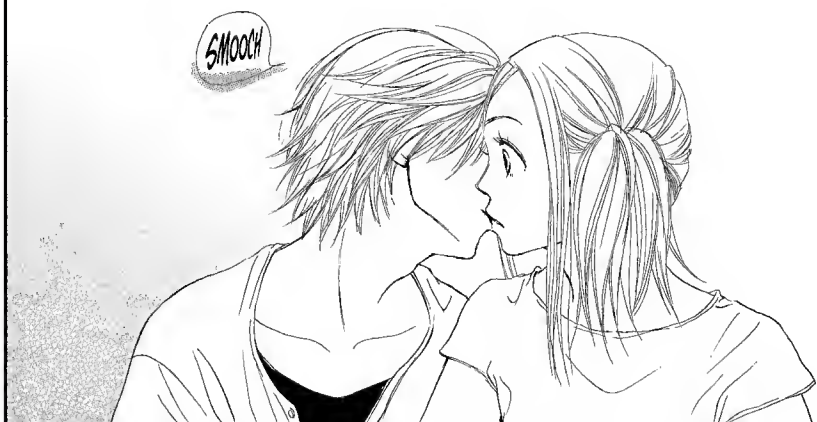


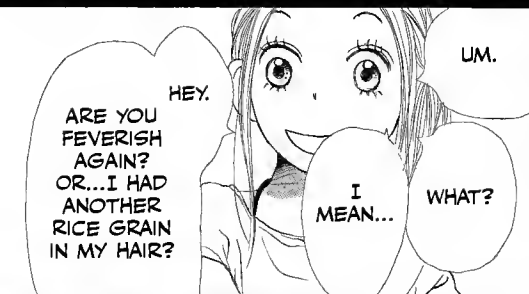
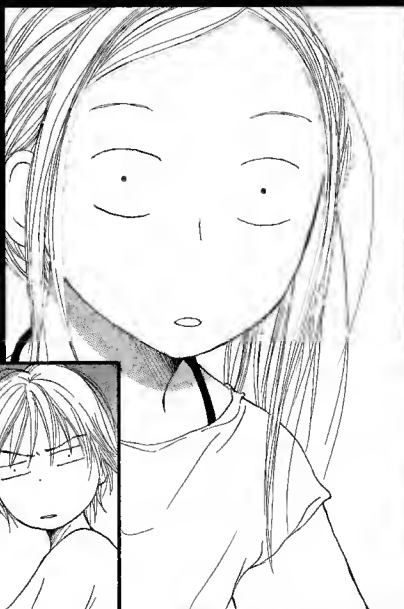
KOIZUMI.

HM?

SO...

I  
DIDN'T  
DREAM  
THAT  
THEN.





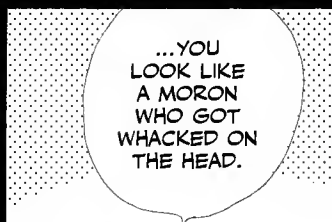
HEY.  
ARE YOU  
FEVERISH  
AGAIN?  
OR...I HAD  
ANOTHER  
RICE GRAIN  
IN MY HAIR?

HEY.

I  
MEAN...

UM.

WHAT?



...YOU  
LOOK LIKE  
A MORON  
WHO GOT  
WHACKED ON  
THE HEAD.



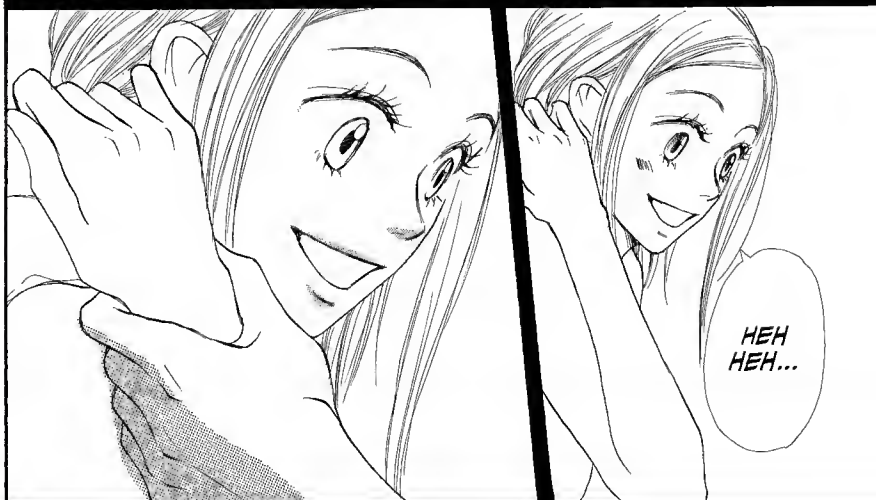
OH.  
SO...  
YOU  
AREN'T.  
AND I  
DIDN'T.

OH.

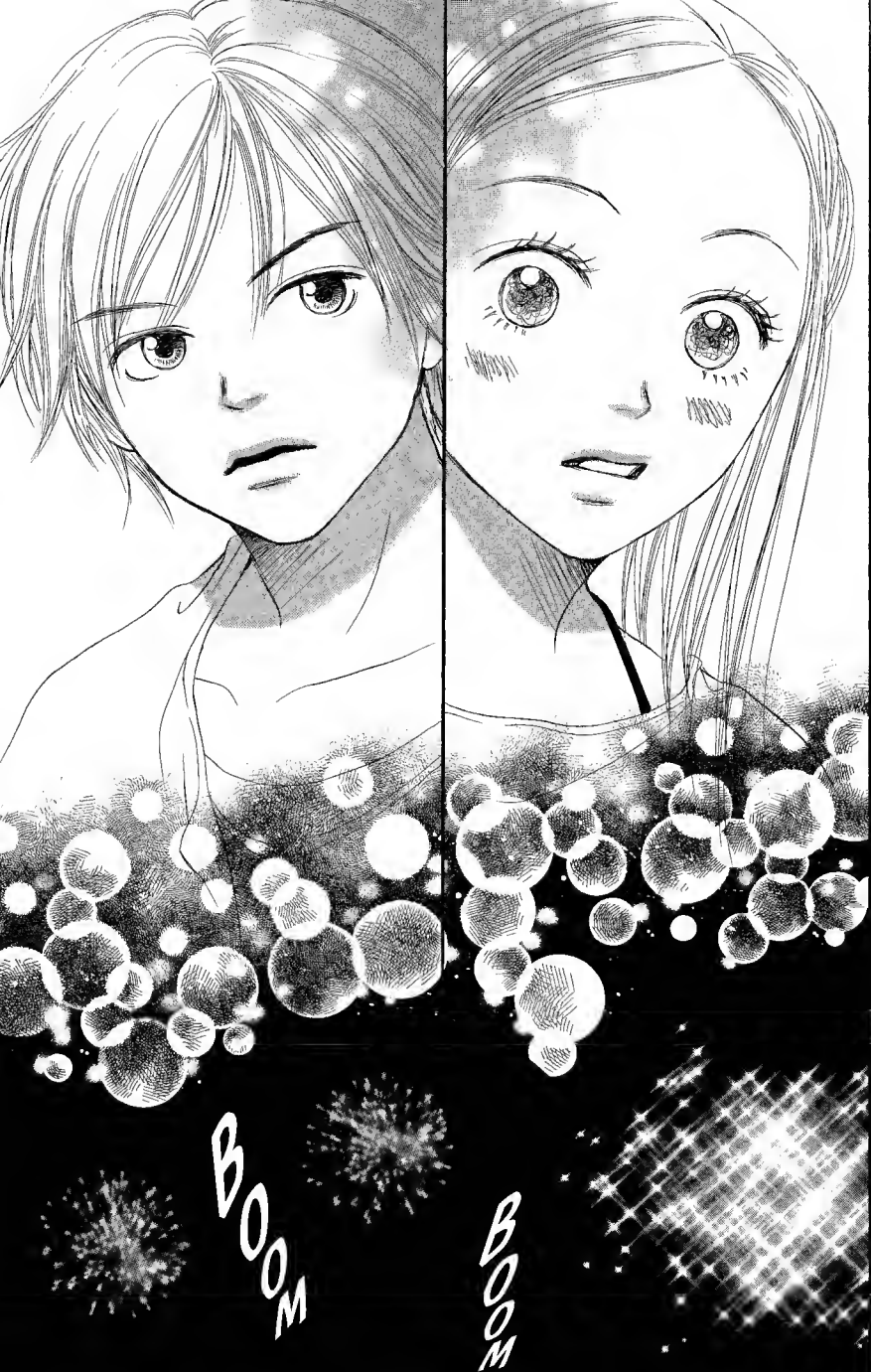
THIS WAS  
NOTHING  
LIKE THAT.



HUH?







...THEN  
WHAT IS  
THIS?

*I  
think it's  
gonna  
and  
soon.*

*Stop it!  
I can't  
see any-  
thing!  
Hey!  
Haruka!*

*Bwaah!*

...IF IT'S  
NOTHING  
LIKE  
THAT...

AM I  
STILL  
DREAM-  
ING OR  
SOME-  
THING?



RIISAAA!

YIKES!



HEY,  
WHERE'D  
RISA  
GO?

SHE  
ISN'T  
HERE?



HEY,  
IT'S  
ÔTANI  
SENPAI!  
♡

HI!!!!  
I'M OVER  
HEEERE!!



UH, NO  
I'M NOT!  
IT'S JUST  
THIS DIM  
LIGHT,  
HAHAHA-  
HAHA!!

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER,  
RISA?  
YOU'RE  
BEET-  
RED.

OMIGOD,  
REALLY  
?!

UH,  
JUST  
BUYING  
SOME  
FIRE-  
WORKS,  
THAT'S  
ALL.

WHY  
WERE  
YOU SO  
LATE,  
SENPAI?









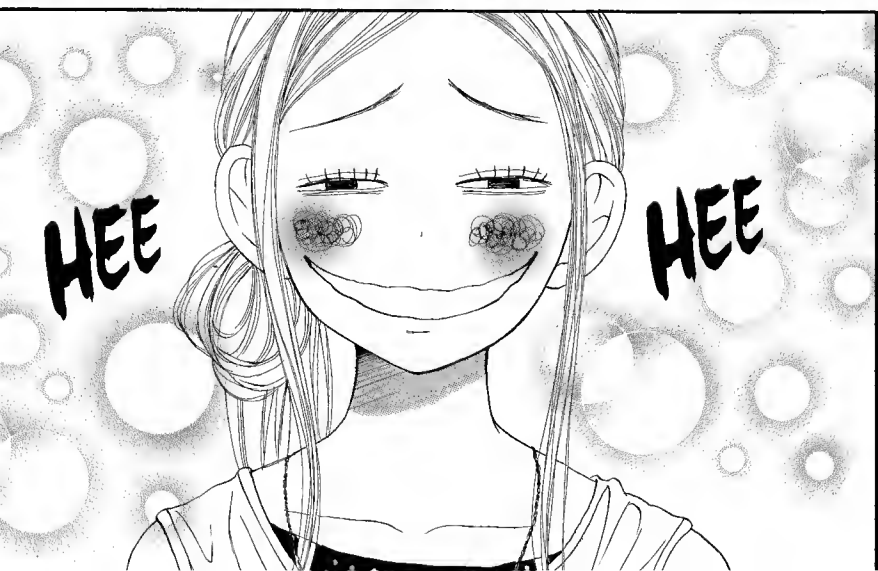
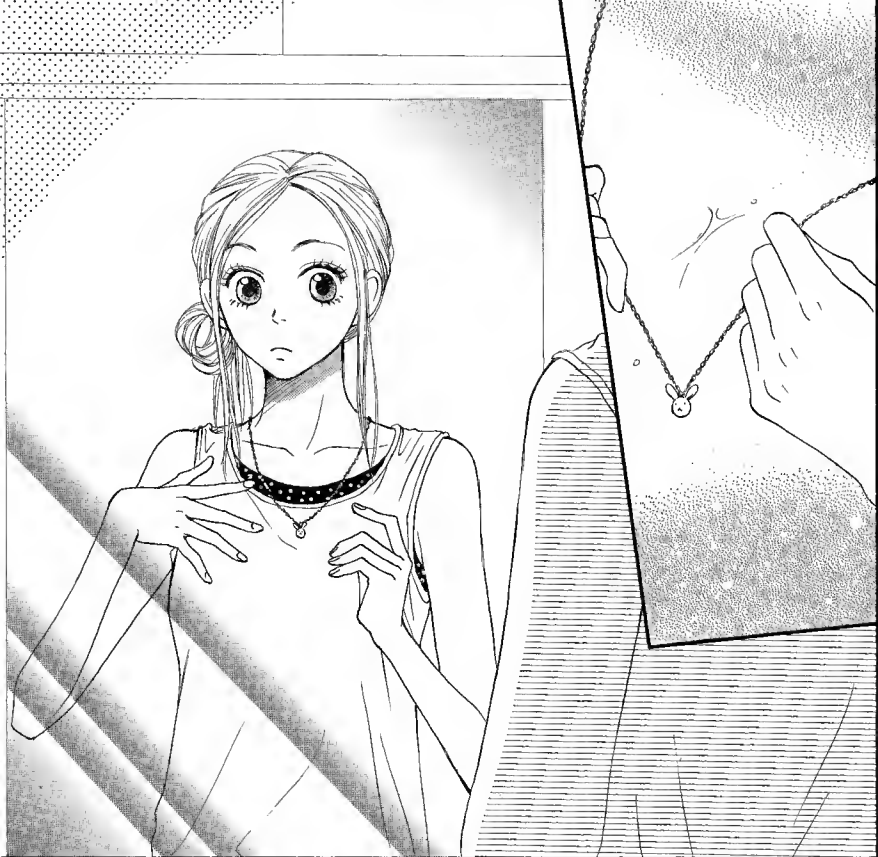
I SWEAR,  
ONE OF THESE  
DAYS, ÔTANI  
IS GOING  
TO KILL ME.  
I AM GOING  
TO DIE OF  
HEART  
SEIZURE.



I THOUGHT  
MY HEART  
WAS GOING  
TO EXPLODE.

## CHAPTER 28





I DIDN'T  
GET A  
WINK OF  
SLEEP  
LAST  
NIGHT.

OOOH!

RISA? DO  
YOU HAVE  
TO GO TO  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL  
TODAY?

YUP.

Oh.

HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH  
HEH.  
♡

HEE HEE!  
I CAN  
HARDLY  
BELIEVE  
HOW  
LUCKY  
I AM!

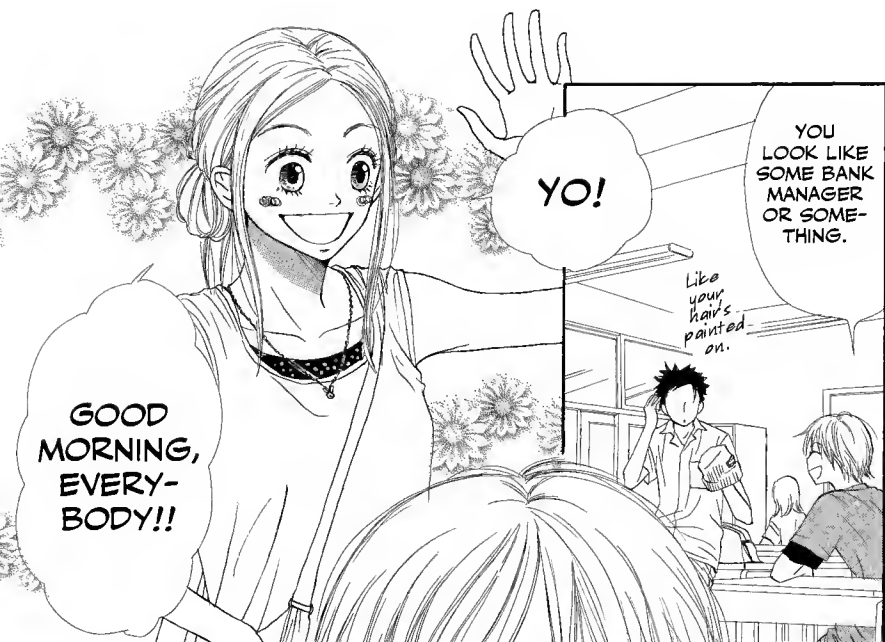
I NEED  
YOU TO BE  
AROUND  
ME ALL  
THE TIME.

THAT,  
AND WHAT  
HAPPENED  
LAST  
NIGHT...

...ALL OF  
IT'S FOR  
REAL.  
I DIDN'T  
DREAM IT!

HAW-  
HAW!  
HYUK  
HYUK  
HYUK  
HYUK!!



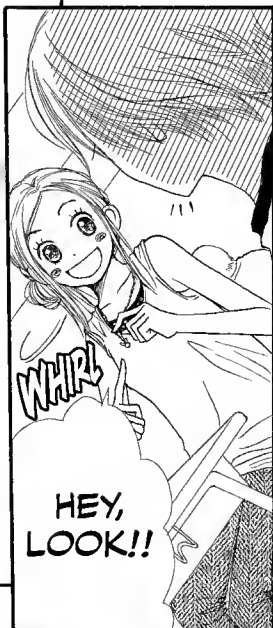


You...!  
What'd  
you have  
to wear  
that to  
school  
for?!

You  
idiot!!

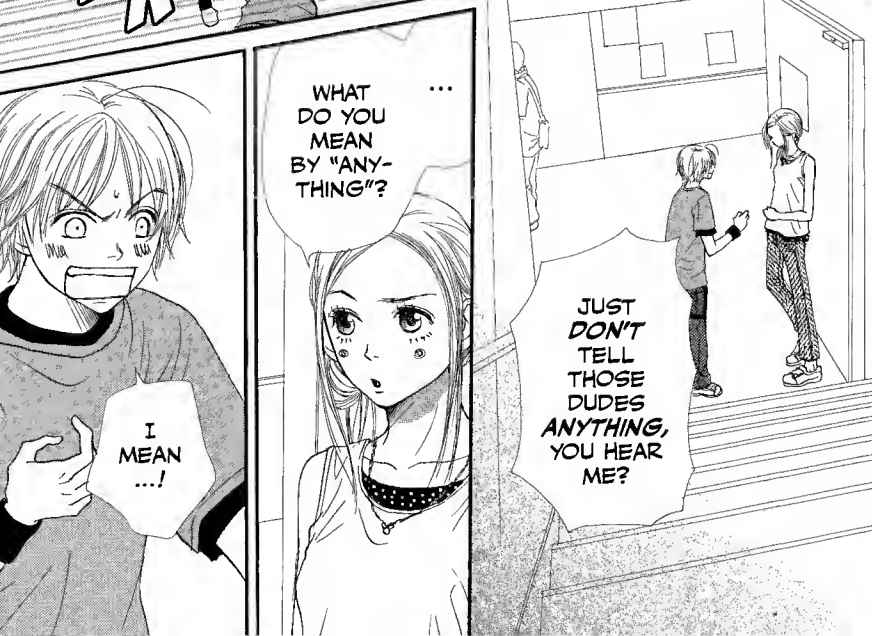
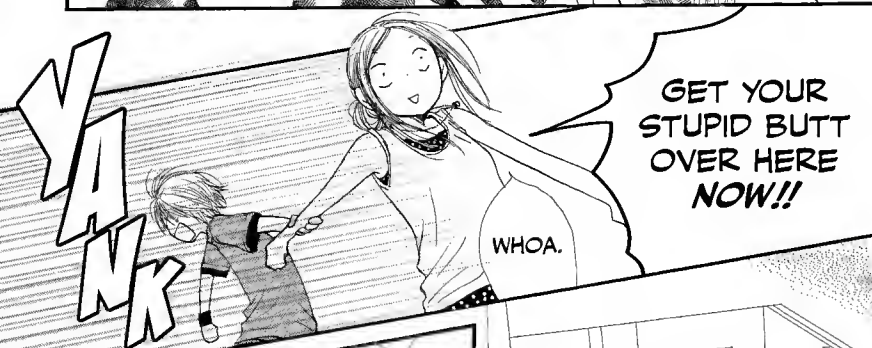
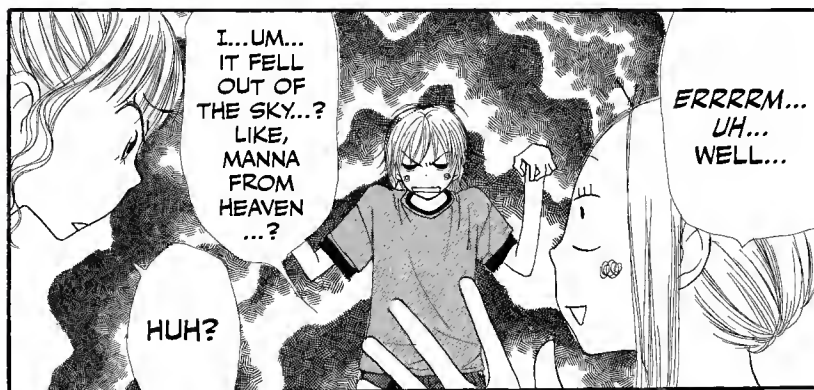
WELL,  
WHERE  
ELSE  
AM I  
SUPPOSED  
TO WEAR  
IT?

HI,  
RISA!

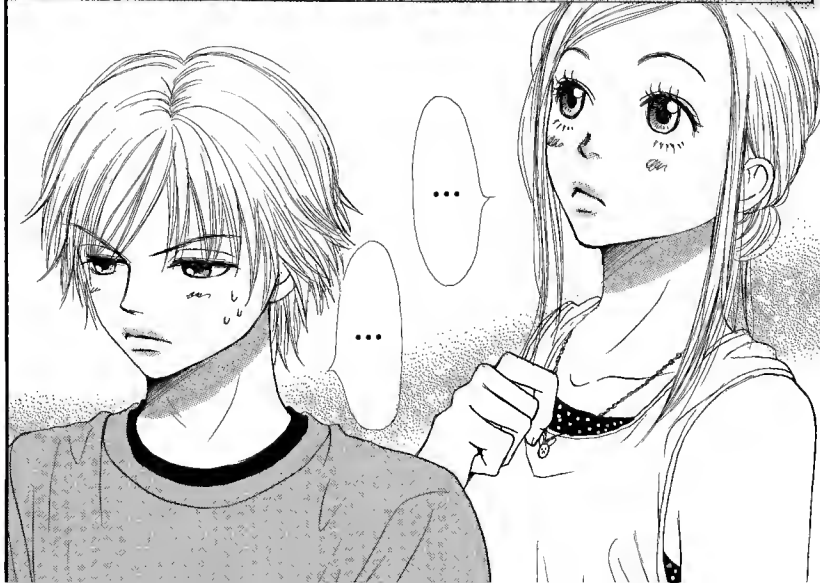
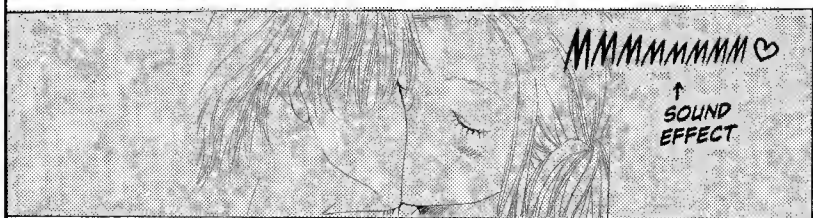
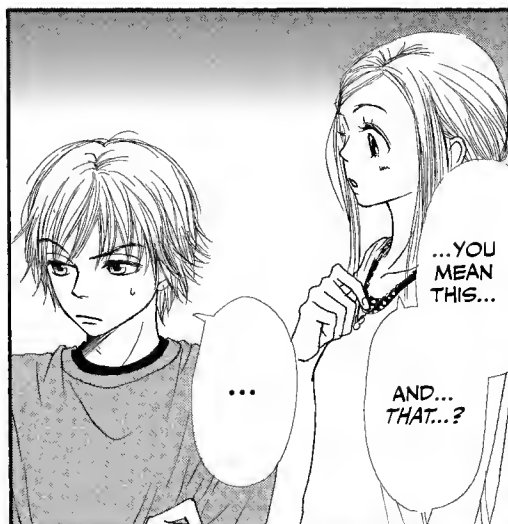


WHERE'D  
YOU GET  
THAT  
NECK-  
LACE?













AND  
STOP  
MAKING  
THAT  
BUTT-UGLY  
FACE AT  
ME!!

I'M NOT  
YELLING AT YOU,  
ALL  
RIGHT?!  
JEEZ!!



LIKE I  
SAID!!

JUST  
KEEP  
YOUR  
BIG  
MOUTH  
SHUT!!

WHY DO  
I HAVE  
TO GET  
YELLED AT  
BY YOU,  
ANYWAY?!



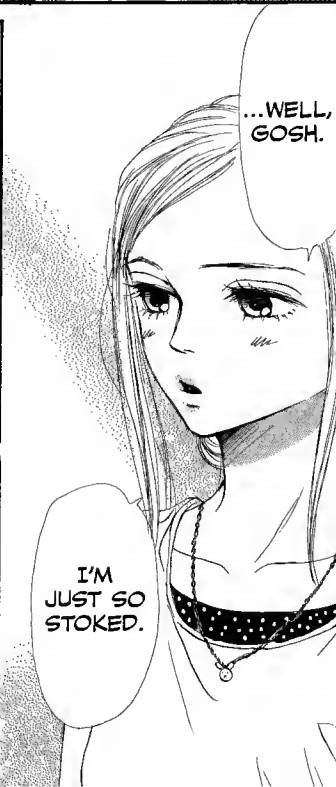
...

I  
WANNA  
TELL  
THEM,  
I CAN'T  
HELP IT.



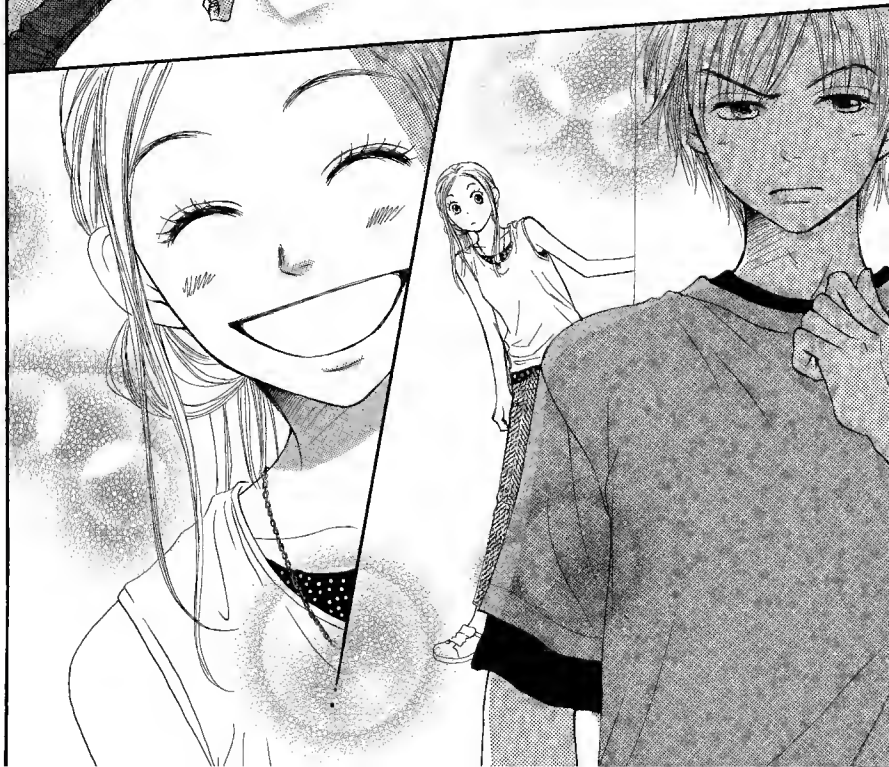
OKAY,  
I'M A  
BLABBER-  
MOUTH.

...BLABBER-  
MOUTH.



...WELL,  
GOSH.

I'M  
JUST SO  
STOKED.



Whoa! I guess this is where we say good-bye.

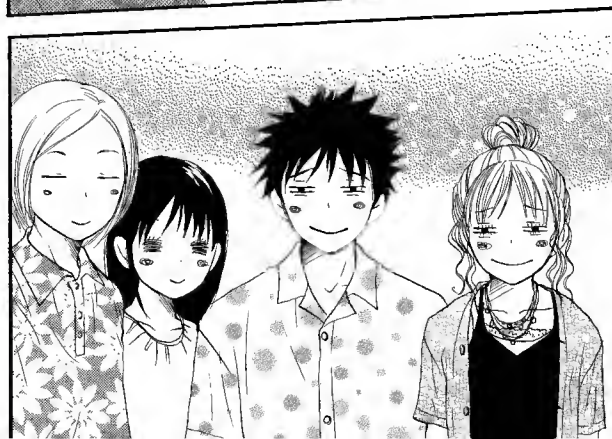
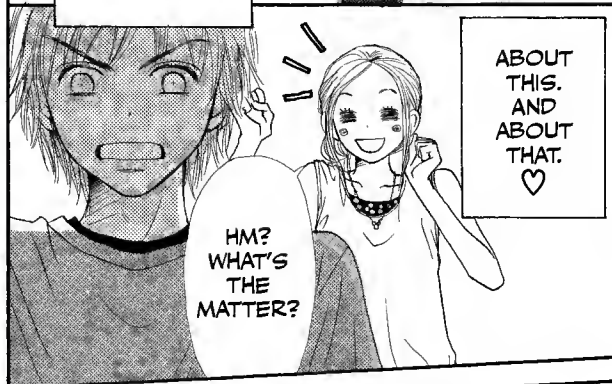
Love & Com is brought to you by an artist whose skills are so iffy, she's lucky if she draws a face ten times and one of those comes out right. Even so, it seems to be continuing, so stay with us!

I sure wish I could draw pictures and manga better.

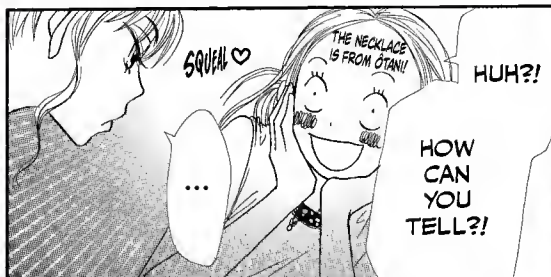
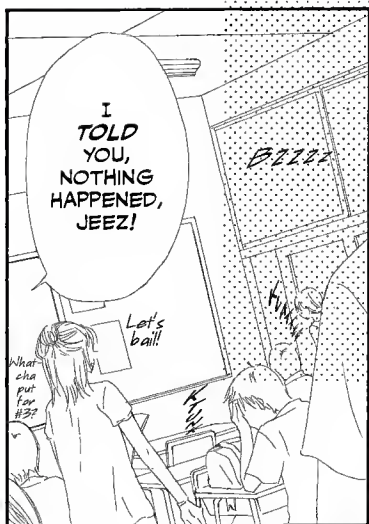
"You draw very nicely when you're in the mood, Nakahara-san, but you get bored so quickly and then it's very haphazard," is what my art teacher often told me back in the day, heh heh. Gotta concentrate! Well then, bye-bye! I hope we get to meet again in Volume B.

Aya

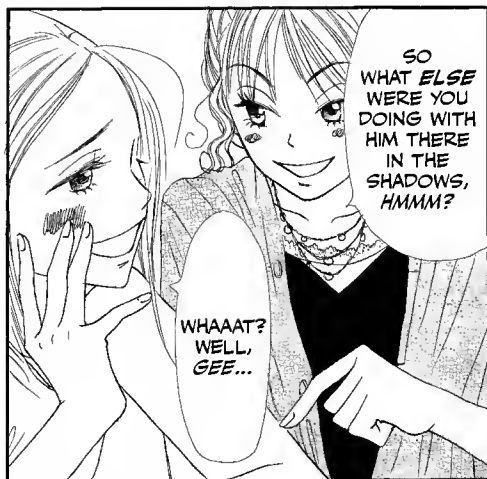
January 2004











SO  
WHAT ELSE  
WERE YOU  
DOING WITH  
HIM THERE  
IN THE  
SHADOWS,  
HMMM?

WHAAAT?  
WELL,  
GEE...

TEE  
HEE  
HEE  
HEE  
HEE.

OH MY  
GOSH,  
REAL-  
LYYYYY?!  
I HAD  
NO IDEA!

NO  
WAY!!  
YOU  
SNEAKY  
DEVIL,  
YOU!!

WELL,  
LET ME  
JUST SAY,  
ALL MY  
HARD  
WORK  
FINALLY  
PAID OFF.

OMI-  
GOOOD!!  
WHAAAT?!

WAAAGH!!  
I CAN'T  
TELL  
YOU!!

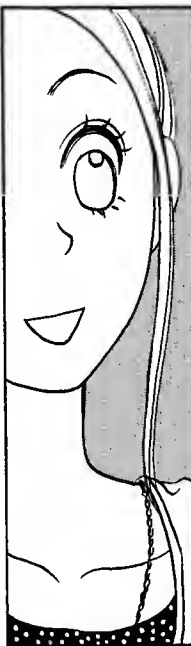
RIII-  
SAAA  
!!

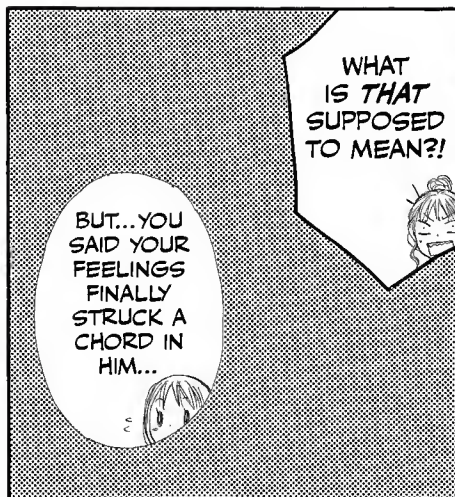
AND  
THEN...

AND  
I HEARD  
ABOUT HOW  
HE SAID  
HE NEEDED  
ME TO BE  
AROUND HIM  
ALL THE  
TIME...

SO,  
HE GAVE  
ME THIS  
PRESENT...

POOOON





WHAT IS *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!



SO WHAT'S THE DEAL, HE JUST GAVE YOU A PRESENT?!

BUT WHY DON'T WE LEAVE IT AT THAAAT? WELLLLLLL... HE DIDN'T JUST GIVE ME A PRESENT, EXACTLY...



AND LIKE ...

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ME AND KOIZUMI. I MEAN, THAT'S KINDA FUNNY!

IF WE GO OUT, WE KISS AND STUFF, RIGHT?!

WELL GOSH, HE WAS SAYING STUFF LIKE...

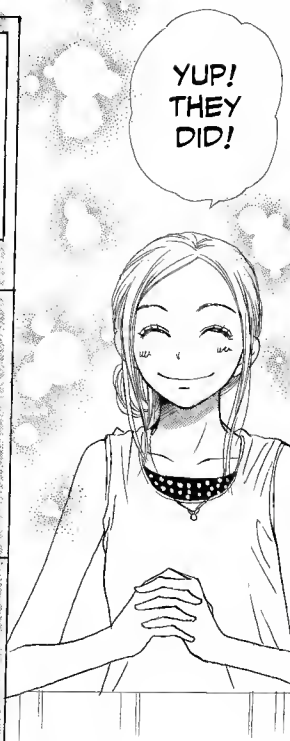


I MEAN ...

...AND I'M NOT FEELING ANY URGE TO MAKE ANY KINDA MOVE ON YOU.

WE'RE ALL ALONE IN MY BEDROOM ...

IT WAS NOT ALL THAT LONG AGO EITHER. OKAY?



YUP! THEY DID!



IT'S  
REALLY  
MAGIC.  
IT'S A  
MIRACLE!



AND  
THEN  
YESTER-  
DAY, HE  
KISSES  
ME?



Woo  
woo



ONE THING'S  
FOR SURE:  
MY EFFORTS  
HAVE  
DEFINITELY  
PAID OFF!!

SO  
OKAY, HE  
DIDN'T  
TELL  
ME HE  
LOVES  
ME...

...OR ASK  
ME TO  
GO OUT  
WITH HIM  
OR ANY-  
THING,  
BUT  
STILL...







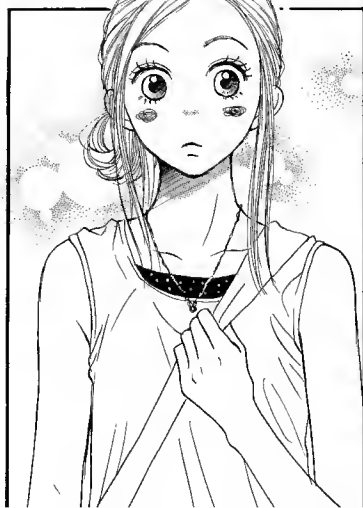
WANNA  
GO DO  
SOMETHING  
INSTEAD OF  
JUST GOING  
STRAIGHT  
HOME?



WHAT?



KOIZUMI!



IT'S  
ALMOST  
LIKE...

...I WOULDN'T  
EVEN BE  
SURPRISED IF  
WE ENDED  
UP BEING  
BOYFRIEND-  
GIRLFRIEND  
REALLY  
SOON. YOU  
KNOW?!

SURE!

WELL,  
WHADDAYA  
EXPECT?

NAH, THIS  
DOESN'T HOLD  
A CANDLE TO  
UMIBÔZU. NOT  
EVEN CLOSE.

TOTALLY!  
I'LL GO  
WITH YOU  
AND KEEP  
YOU  
COMPANY.

YOU WANT,  
I'LL GO  
GET IN LINE  
A FEW HOURS  
EARLY TO  
MAKE SURE  
WE GET  
SOME.

ISN'T HE  
DOING  
ANY  
SHOWS?

YOU  
SURE  
YOU CAN  
GET UP?  
WE'RE  
TALKING  
LIKE,  
6 A.M.

FOR  
REAL?!

UH-HUH.  
TICKETS  
GO ON  
SALE  
NEXT WEEK.

I can  
do it if  
it's for  
Umibôzu.

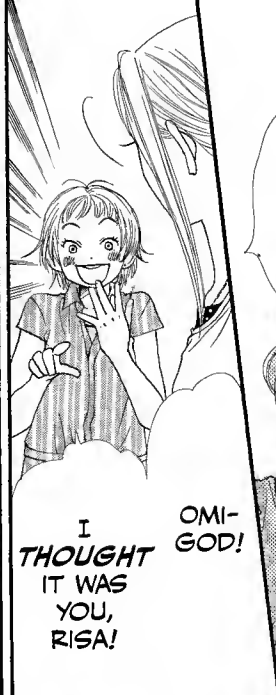
mosh





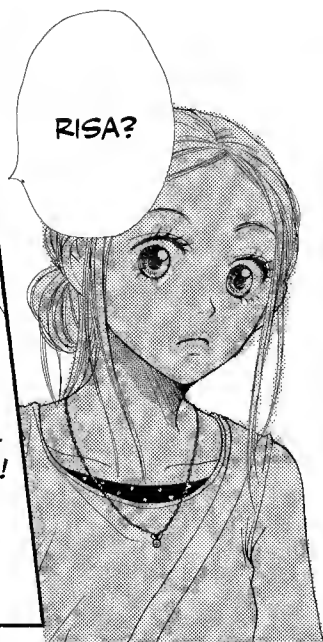
OMIGOD!  
AKIKO?!  
OMIGOD!!

I KNOW,  
IT'S BEEN  
LIKE, A  
COUPLE  
YEARS?!

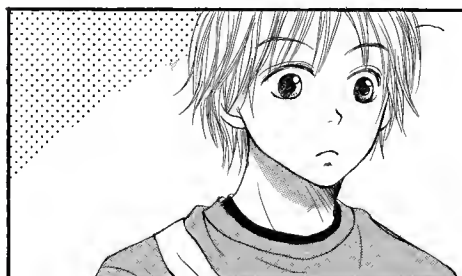


I  
**THOUGHT**  
IT WAS  
YOU,  
RISA!

OMI-  
GOD!



RISA?



I'VE  
BEEN  
FINE!  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?

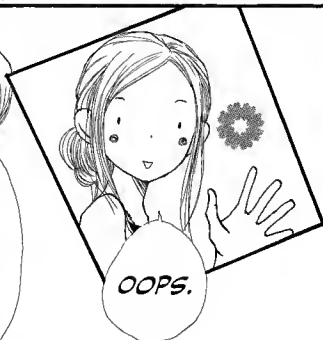
HOW'VE  
YOU  
BEEN?



...OH, HI.  
NICE TO  
MEET  
YOU...

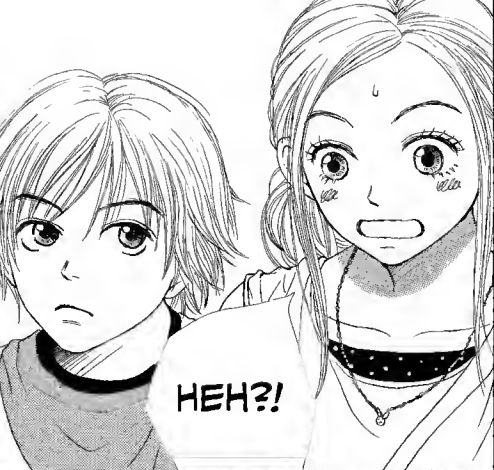
OH,  
UH-HUH.  
HI.

SORRY.  
THIS IS  
AKIKO,  
A FRIEND  
OF MINE  
FROM  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL.



OOPS.



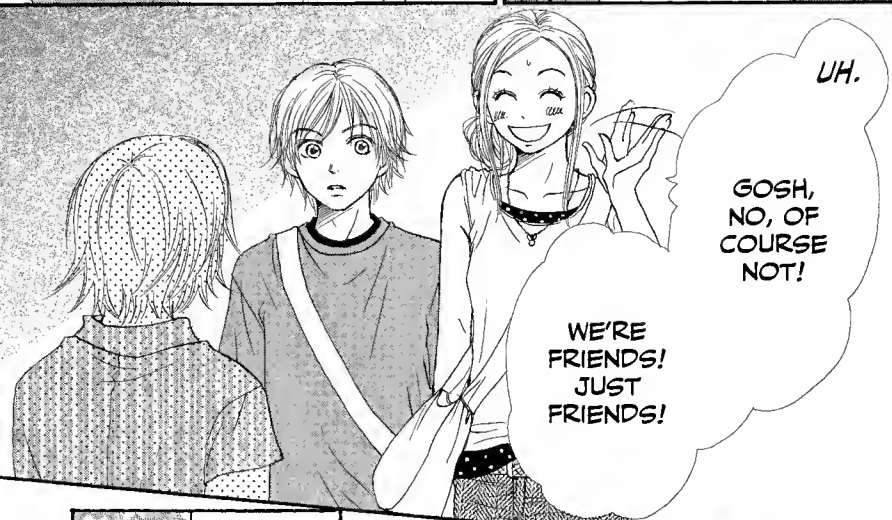


HEH?!



IS  
THIS  
YOUR  
BOY-  
FRIEND,  
RISA?

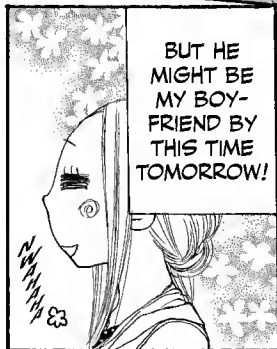
UM.



UH.

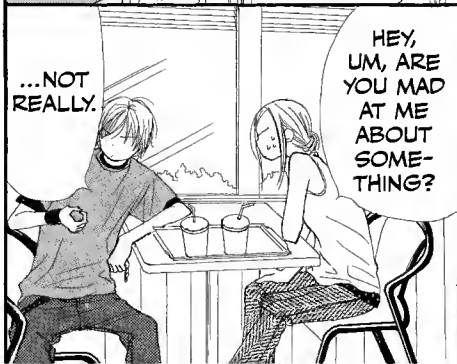
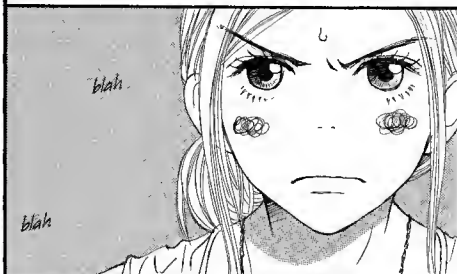
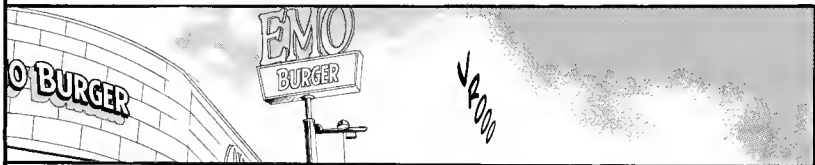
GOSH,  
NO, OF  
COURSE  
NOT!

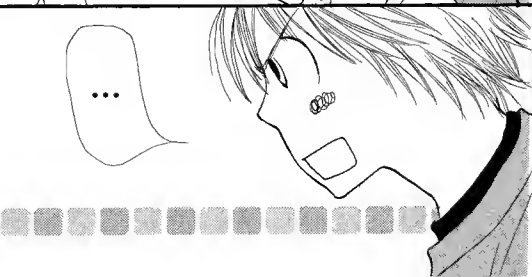
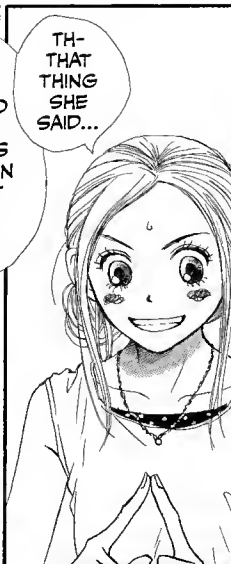
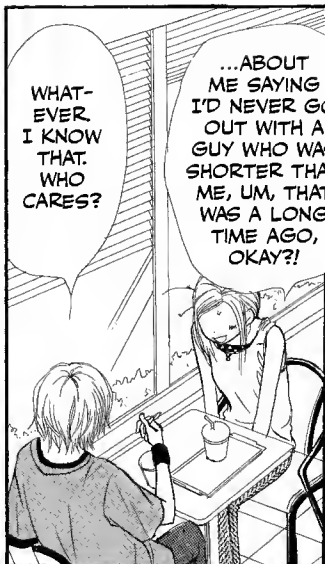
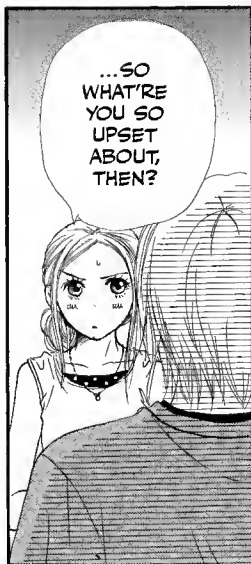
WE'RE  
FRIENDS!  
JUST  
FRIENDS!



BUT HE  
MIGHT BE  
MY BOY-  
FRIEND BY  
THIS TIME  
TOMORROW!





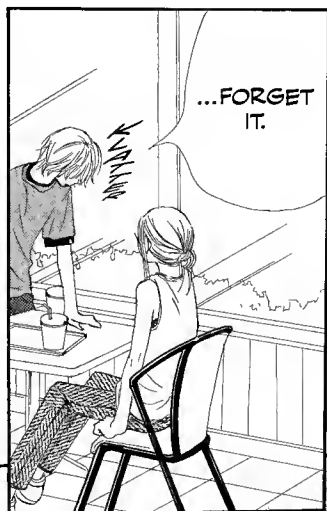




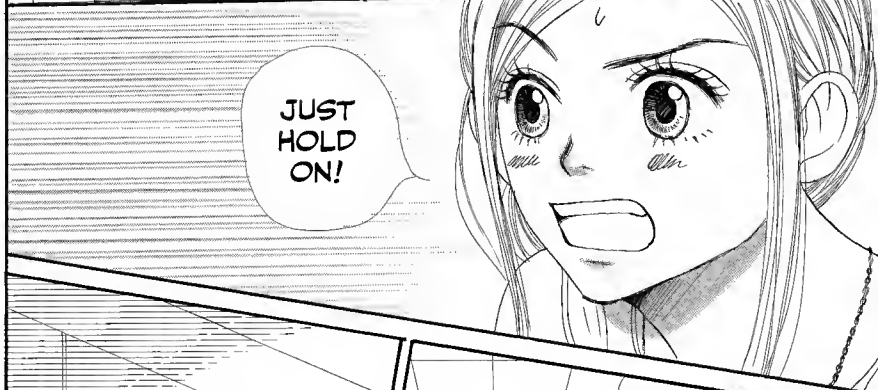


SO  
LET IT  
BOTHER  
YOU ALL  
DAY.

WILL  
YOU JUST  
TELL ME?!  
THIS IS  
GOING TO  
BOTHER  
ME ALL  
DAY!



...FORGET  
IT.



JUST  
HOLD  
ON!



HEY!

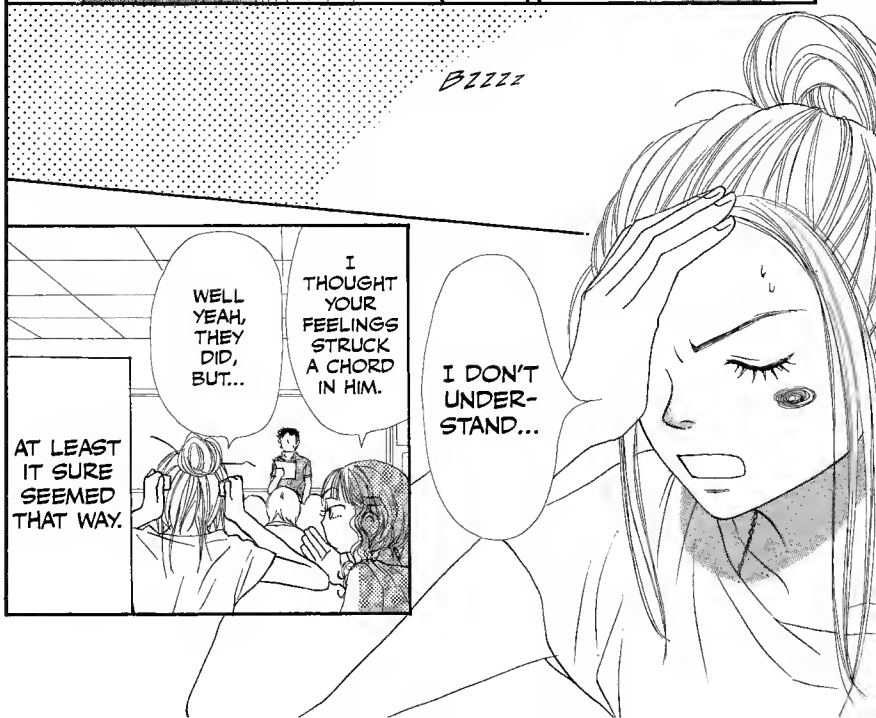
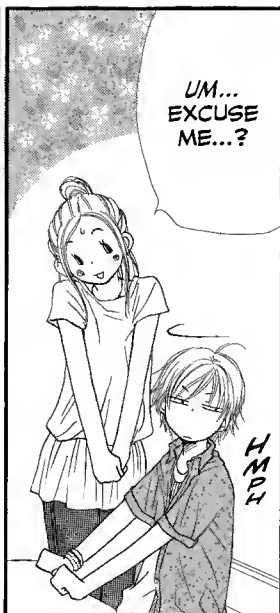
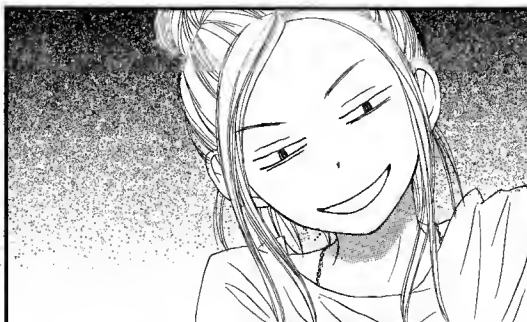
COME  
ON!  
ÔTANI?!

WAIT A  
MINUTE!

ZHWEEN







BZZZZ

I WANT YOU TWO TO COME SEE ME IN THE FACULTY ROOM AFTER CLASS.

KOIZUMI AND OTANI.

SO WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? I DON'T GET IT.

IS IT ME? WHAT DID I DO?

YOU GUYS WANT TO STAY HERE ANOTHER YEAR, IS THAT IT?

Summer Program Test

Akashi Otani

50/

6

Summer Program Test

Risa Koizumi

50/

4

SORT OF...

NO...OF COURSE NOT...

YOU STUDYING AT ALL?

TOO BUSY HAVING FUN, EH? THAT REMINDS ME, DID YOU HAVE A GOOD BIRTHDAY PARTY, KOIZUMI?

OH... YEAH!





OH...UH...  
WELL...  
NOTHING...

NOTHING?

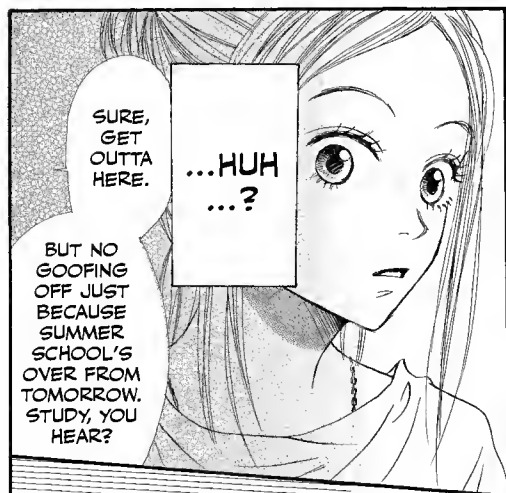
KA-  
THUNK



OH...  
UH-HUH!  
SURE  
DID.

YOU GET  
SOME NICE  
PRESENTS?

WHAT  
DID  
ÔTANI  
GIVE  
YOU?



SURE,  
GET  
OUTTA  
HERE.

...HUH  
...?

BUT NO  
GOOFING  
OFF JUST  
BECAUSE  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL'S  
OVER FROM  
TOMORROW.  
STUDY, YOU  
HEAR?



IT'S YOUR  
GIRLFRIEND'S  
BIRTHDAY  
AND YOU DON'T  
EVEN GET HER  
A PRESENT?  
I DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT THAT,  
ÔTANI.

AW,  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE,  
MAN. CAN  
WE GO  
NOW?

OKAY...  
BYE, MR.  
NAKANO.

MARK  
MARK  
MARK

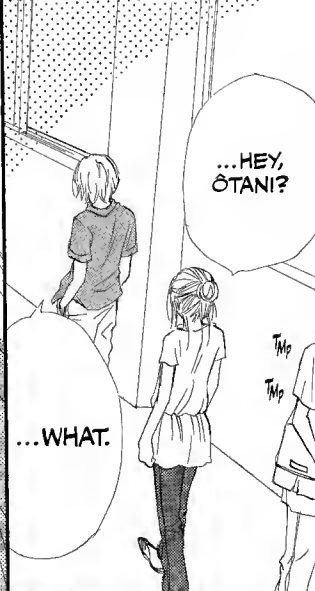




HOW  
COME  
YOU  
DIDN'T  
JUST  
NOW?

YOU KNOW  
HOW YOU  
ALWAYS BITE  
KONG'S HEAD  
OFF WHEN HE  
SAYS STUFF  
ABOUT US BEING  
BOYFRIEND-  
GIRLFRIEND?

PW!?



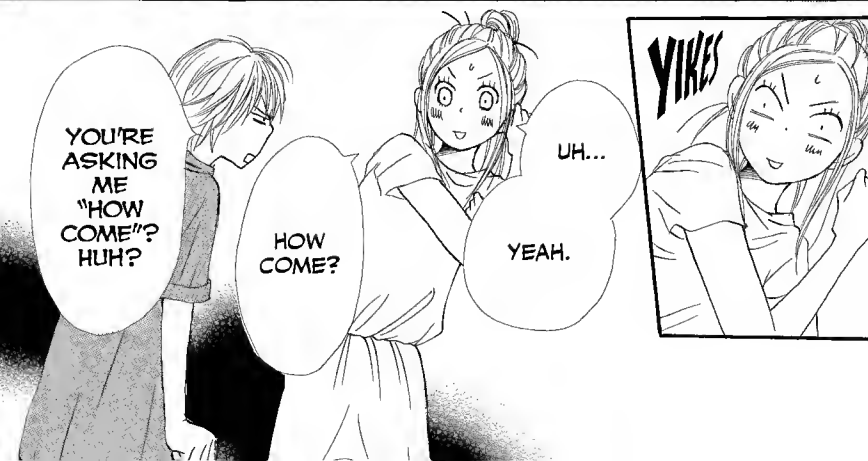
...HEY,  
ÔTANI?

...WHAT.



JEEZ.

... "HOW  
COME"?

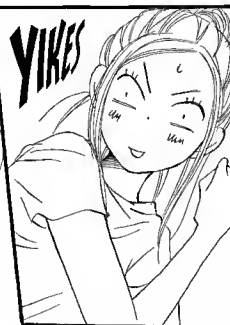


YOU'RE  
ASKING  
ME  
"HOW  
COME"?  
HUH?


HOW  
COME?

UH...

YEAH.



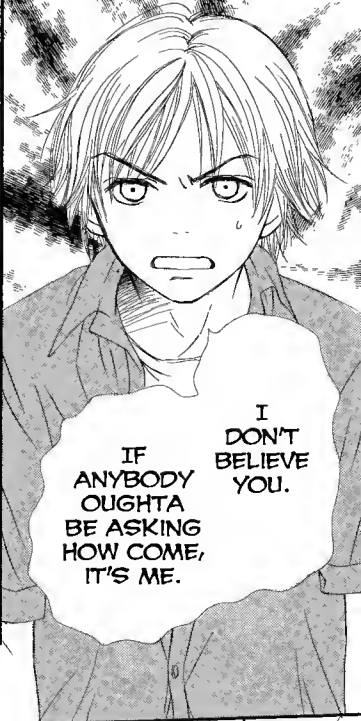
YIKES





YOU WANNA  
KNOW HOW  
COME, YOU  
FIGURE IT  
OUT YOUR-  
SELF, YOU  
BIG DOPE!!



HEH?



I  
DON'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU.  
  
IF  
ANYBODY  
OUGHTA  
BE ASKING  
HOW COME,  
IT'S ME.



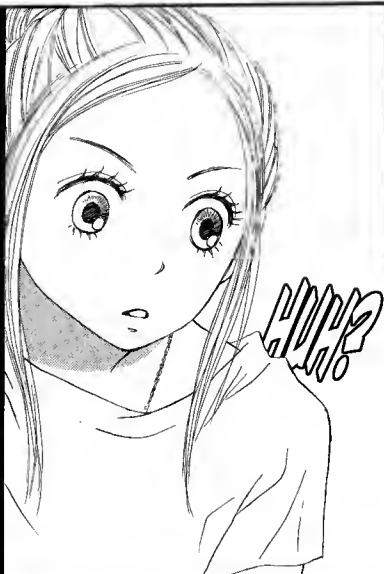
HOW  
COME? ...WHAAAT?

CAN'T  
BE.

I MEAN,  
I NEVER  
HEARD  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT IT.



WAIT  
A SEC.  
DON'T  
TELL  
ME...WE  
ARE  
GOING  
OUT?



OR THEY  
BOTH KINDA GO,  
"WANNA GO OUT?"  
LIKE NOBU  
AND  
NAKAO DID, AND  
START GOING  
OUT THAT WAY.



AND SHE  
SAYS  
YES, LIKE  
SUZUKI  
AND  
CHIHARU.



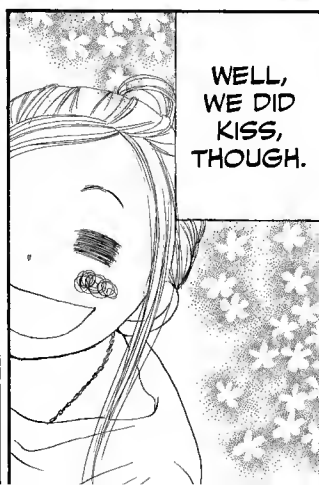
GOING  
OUT MEANS...  
...THE GUY  
TELLS THE  
GIRL HE REALLY  
LIKES HER  
AND WANTS  
TO GO OUT  
WITH HER...



HURRY  
UP AND  
GO HOME,  
KOIZUMI.

*What're  
you doing?*

SO  
HANG  
ON.  
ARE  
WE?  
BUT...  
HUH?



WELL,  
WE DID  
KISS,  
THOUGH.



I  
REALLY  
DON'T  
GET  
IT...

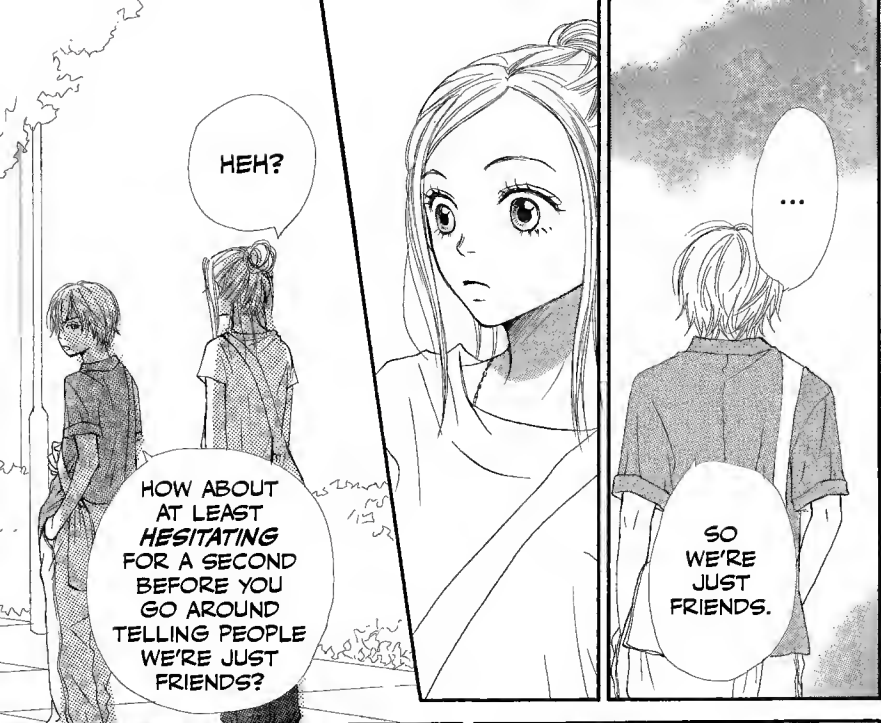
HEY,  
ÔTANI  
...?

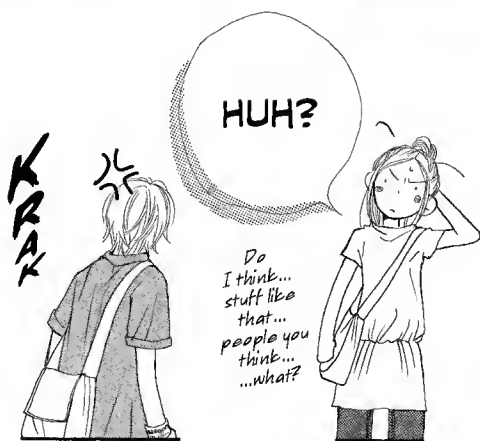
WHY ARE  
YOU SO  
MAD AT  
ME...?

I  
CANNOT  
FIGURE  
IT OUT.

I'M  
SORRY,  
BUT I  
GIVE  
UP...!  
I AM  
TOTALLY  
MYSTI-  
FIED.











I GUESS  
IF WE KISSED  
LIKE THAT, WE  
AREN'T JUST  
FRIENDS,  
ARE WE...?

OH, YEAH.  
DUH. OF  
COURSE  
NOT.

...

...OH!

...

WELL, GOSH!  
HOW AM I  
SUPPOSED TO  
KNOW ANYTHING  
IF YOU NEVER  
**SAY** ANYTHING  
TO ME?!

FIGURE  
IT OUT!!

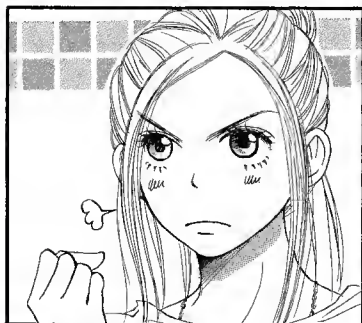
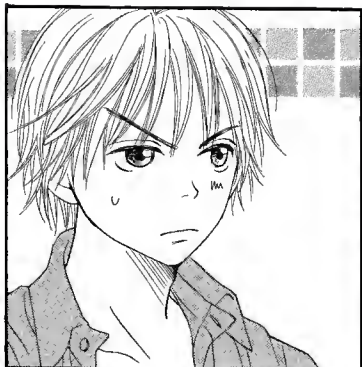
FIGURE  
**WHAT**  
OUT?!

BUT  
THEN...  
WHAT  
ARE  
WE...?

SO...

YOU  
ARE SO  
STUPID, I  
SWEAR IT  
KILLS ME  
SOME-  
TIMES.



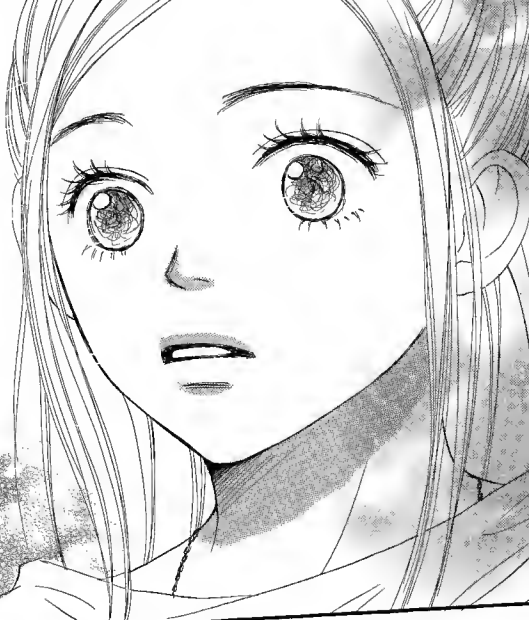


LOOK,  
I WAS SO  
STOKED THAT  
YOU KISSED ME,  
I COULDN'T  
EVEN THINK  
ABOUT ANYTHING  
ELSE, OKAY?!  
I'M LIKE, MAXED  
OUT HERE,  
OKAY?!



YOU  
THINK IT  
WAS EASY?  
I'M KINDA  
MAXED  
OUT TOO,  
OKAY?

WELL, I  
WOULDN'T DO  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT FOR  
NO REASON,  
WOULD I?  
NUMBSKULL.



I CAN'T  
JUST  
SUDDENLY  
START  
GOING OUT  
WITH YOU  
OR THINKING  
OF YOU  
THAT WAY.



NO MATTER  
HOW LONG  
I STAY IN  
LOVE WITH  
YOU...

...NOTHING'S  
EVER  
GOING TO  
CHANGE  
BETWEEN  
US, IS IT?

I'M  
SORRY.



I'M GONNA  
QUIT BEING  
IN LOVE  
WITH YOU,  
SO THERE!!



I DON'T  
CARE ABOUT  
KOIZUMI,  
ALL RIGHT?!  
SHE MEANS  
NOTHING  
TO ME!!





I NEED  
YOU  
TO BE  
AROUND  
ME ALL  
THE  
TIME.



DON'T  
QUIT.

...OMIGOD.



I THINK  
I'M GONNA  
HAVE TO  
ARREST THIS  
GUY FOR  
MURDER  
BY HEART  
SEIZURE.



DOESN'T  
IT EVER  
OCCUR TO  
YOU, EVEN  
FOR ONE  
SECOND,  
THAT IT  
MIGHT BE  
YOU?



CHEER  
UP!



I  
REALLY  
DO.

I  
LOVE  
YOU.

...I...



MIRACLES  
REALLY  
DO  
HAPPEN.





I LOVE  
YOU,  
ÔTANI!!

I JUST  
LOVE  
YOU SO  
MUCH!!



WAITA...!

I'M  
CRAZY  
ABOUT  
YOU!!

I'M  
TOTALLY  
NUTS  
ABOUT  
YOU, I  
REALLY  
AM!!

I  
LOVE  
YOU!!

OKAY  
...!

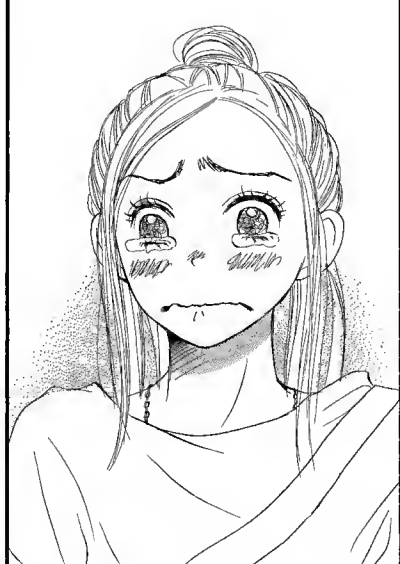
I'M  
COM-  
PLETELY  
BONKERS  
ABOUT  
YOU!!

OKAY!!  
I GOT  
IT!!

WILL  
YOU  
JUST...!

SSHH!





I  
KNOW.

...I  
LOVE  
YOU.



YOU  
LOVE  
ME  
TOO,  
DON'T  
YOU?

...ÔTANI...



YEAH.

《...to be continued》



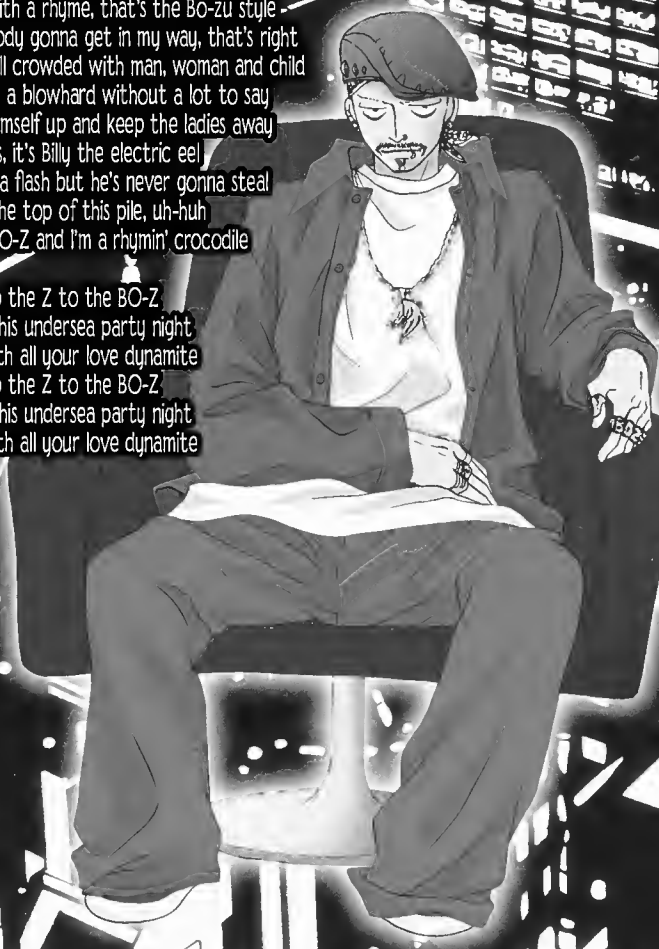
# Umibôzu "Fish in Hell"

Music by Umibôzu Lyrics by Umibôzu Arrangement by Minôru Maruo [?]

B to the O to the Z to the BO-Z  
Welcome to this undersea party night  
Let it rock with all your love dynamite  
B to the O to the Z to the BO-Z  
Welcome to this undersea party night  
Let it rock with all your love dynamite

Mike check one-two, listen up babes  
Ride the rhymin' wave, it's MC BO-Z  
Blast the fish outta the water with my rockin' beat  
Spear them with a rhyme, that's the Bo-zu style  
And ain't nobody gonna get in my way, that's right  
The beach is all crowded with man, woman and child  
The blowfish is a blowhard without a lot to say  
He just puff himself up and keep the ladies away  
And who's this, it's Billy the electric eel  
He gotta lotta flash but he's never gonna steal  
My place at the top of this pile, uh-huh  
'Cuz I'm the BO-Z and I'm a rhymin' crocodile

B to the O to the Z to the BO-Z  
Welcome to this undersea party night  
Let it rock with all your love dynamite  
B to the O to the Z to the BO-Z  
Welcome to this undersea party night  
Let it rock with all your love dynamite



# glossary

**Page 46, panel 2: Osaka dialect**

The specific dialect spoken in the Osaka area, called *Osaka-ben* in Japanese. It is also sometimes used to refer to all Kansai dialects collectively.

**Page 46, panel 2: Akan**

Osaka dialect for "no; na way; that's na good; we can't do that." The Standard Japanese is *dame*.

**Page 46, panel 2: Donaiyanen**

Osaka dialect for "What's up with that?" "What do you think of that?" "What's the deal with that?" The Standard Japanese is *douuikoto*.

**Page 46, panel 2: Shibakuzo**

Osaka dialect for "You're dust; I'm gonna mess you up." The Standard Japanese is *shimeruzo*.

**Page 46, panel 2: Chau**

Osaka dialect for "No; that's not right; something's wrong." The Standard Japanese is *chigau*.



Lately I've been doing most of my coloring on a computer. You can do way more fun stuff that way than when you color by hand, which is great, but because you can do so many cool things, it ends up taking a lot more time than working by hand. Plus, I always get a really bad headache when I face a computer for more than thirty minutes, so I have to take a ton of breaks and that makes it take even longer. Isn't there something I can do about this...? People who sit and work in front of a computer all day long are really amazing...

**Aya Nakahara** won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.



# LOVE★COM VOL 7

The Shoyo Beat Manga Edition



**STORY AND ART BY**  
**AYA NAKAHARA**

**Translation & English Adaptation**/Pookie Rolf

**Touch-up Art & Lettering**/Gia Cam Luc

**Design**/Yuki Amedo

**Editor**/Poncha Diaz

**Editor in Chief, Books**/Alvin Lu

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